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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Is the CNMI government doing enough to pursue corruption cases and other white-collar crimes on the islands?

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INSIDE

Plagiarism

Hillary Rodham Clinton accused presidential rival Barack Obama of political plagiarism.

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Divided Bishops

There is a strong demand among bishops in the provinces for the truth to emerge in the scandal-ridden NBN project.

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Next Idol

Carly Smithson progressed on "American Idol" Thursday amid controversy over her professional past.

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Immigration wants cancer victim deported. **PAGE 2**
Taotao Tano backs minimum wage hikes. **PAGE 3**

'Fire LB chief, use savings for power generator'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A lawmaker has proposed yet another way out of the deadlock over the selection of a director at the Legislative Bureau.

Reyes

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes suggested that the Legislature terminate the LB director and appoint the deputy director to assume the position temporarily at current salary level. Then the House of Representatives can continue to work with the Senate on the selection of a director.

See FIRE on Page 4

Nightclub operator gets 3 years for prostitution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court sentenced yesterday the manager of a nightclub to three years and five months in prison for running a prostitution operation on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Wei Qin Sun to spend 41 months in prison for each of the three charges she faced.

Munson said Sun should serve the sentences concurrently. This means that the total prison term is 41 months.

Munson ordered Sun to immediately pay $9,529 in restitution to the victim

See NIGHTCLUB on Page 4

2 new Malite administrators named

Judge aims to finally close controversial probate this year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo appointed yesterday two persons as the new administrators of the controversial Angel Malite estate.

At the hearing, Govendo granted the Malite heirs' petition to name Jimmy G. Sablan and Esther Fejeran Sound as replacement for Jesus C. Tudela, who was earlier removed from the post.

See 2 NEW on Page 4

MHS CULTURAL DAY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the "Teine Toa" or brave females perform a traditional Samoan dance number during the Marianas High School's 21st Annual Cultural Day celebration Friday. The festivity featured cultural events, songs, dance, and food from different MHS student organization. ***See related story on Page 2.***

Local

Immigration wants cancer victim deported

The Division of Immigration recently filed a deportation case against an alleged overstaying alien worker who has actually left the CNMI two years ago after being diagnosed with cancer.

A businessman told *Saipan Tribune* that he wonders why Immigration is seeking the deportation of Gavidioso Satinitigan when the latter had already left for the Philippines sometime in 2006.

The businessman, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, also clarified that Satinitigan's first name is not Gavidioso as Immigration indicated but Gaudioso.

He disclosed that he personally knows Satinitigan, who left the CNMI due to throat cancer.

He said the Philippine Consulate General and some concerned Filipinos helped Satinitigan's medical expenses at the Commonwealth Health Center and repatriation expenses because he became jobless in 2004.

Satinitigan can't possibly come back to CNMI because of his health problem and lack of work permit, the businessman added.

Following Immigration's recent filing of deportation case, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman ordered the respondent to appear in court on March 13 at 1:30pm to explain why he should not be deported from the Commonwealth.

An Immigration investigator stated in court papers that Satinitigan's nonresident work permit expired on Sept. 28, 2004.

Satinitigan, a carpenter, first came to the CNMI in 1997, Immigration records show. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A student inquires with Northern Marianas College Student Support Services administrative assistantís Clarice C. Deleon Guerrero and Joan Flores about the TRIO programs during its open house event Friday. The open house gives opportunity for students and other community members to learn about the three programs that are all a part of ìTRIO,î which include Student Services, Talent Search Program, and the Upward Bound Program.

MHS holds 21st annual cultural day

Members of the Marianas High School's Refaluwasch Cultural group perform a traditional Carolinian dance number during the school's 21'st Annual Cultural Day celebration Friday. The festivity features cultural events, songs, dance, and food from different MHS student organization.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of Marianas High School students and visitors gather inside the campus for the school's 21'st Annual Cultural Day celebration Friday. The festivity features cultural events, songs, dance, and food from different MHS student organization.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Marianas High School students joined at least 80 Japanese cultural exchange program participants in a whole day of fun yesterday to mark the 21st Annual MHS-Seisa Gakuen Cultural Exchange Program.

Students from both schools rendered performances during the event, which kicked off at 9am and lasted up to 4pm yesterday.

MHS assistant principal Jessica Barcinas said the annual event is a great way to strengthen the bond and friendship between the two sister schools.

MHS students provided various forms of entertainment that included cultural dancing, song performances, and traditional and modern dancing.

In exchange, the Seisa Gakuen students provided martial arts demonstrations and other forms of entertainment.

Two days ago the students from both schools shared a full day of touring the island. Yesterday was for sharing cultures and traditions at the MHS campus.

The MHS-Seisa Gakuen Annual Cultural Exchange program began through the personal friendship of Bert Thompson and Yazuo Miyazawa, which has weathered the test of time and is considered the highlight of the students' educational and cultural learning process.

According to Barcinas, the cultural exchange has been a tradition every year for the past 21 years.

"It's usually a day of fun and food, more importantly for the students to develop ties and friendship," said Barcinas.

The Seisa Gakuen students arrived Wednesday evening and are scheduled to leave tomorrow.

NMC hosts TRIO open house

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College hosted a TRIO open house event yesterday that featured three of its federally funded programs: the Upward Bound Program, the Student Support Services Office, and the Talent Search Program.

The TRIO open house, held from 8am to 5pm, drew in a number of interested students of all ages as well as parents.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez described the TRIO open house as a great opportunity for students and community members to learn about the different programs NMC offers.

"I especially encourage parents to come find out how we can help their children prepare for college success," Fernandez said.

The Student Support Services was designed to help students meet their career guidance needs, financial support for college, and other related support programs to lend support to student achievement.

The Talent Search Program was designed to identify and assist individuals who have the potential to succeed in higher education.

TRIO member Georgia Salas described the goal of the talent search as a means to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to succeed in high school and enroll in postsecondary education institution of their choice.

"It is designed to help high school students prepare for college," said Salas.

Upward Bound serves almost the same purpose as the talent search program, according to Jane Tudela, guidance specialist for Upward Bound.

While the Talent search programs serves individuals from 7 to 27 years old, Upward Bound focuses on ninth graders, where they will have to participate in the program for a period in order receive the full benefits of the program.

The Upward Bound is designed to provide fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance.

According to Tudela, the program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their pre-college performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits.

Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families along with high school students from families where neither parent hold a bachelor's degree.

The goal of this program is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

EMO issues small craft advisory

The Emergency Management Office reinstated yesterday its small craft advisory due to hazardous seas that are projected to remain choppy until this morning.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, a shear line was expected to bring scattered showers and gusty winds to Tinian and Saipan waters last night.

"Combined seas will exceed small craft advisory heights on Tinian and Saipan waters. A trade wind disturbance is expected to arrive on Sunday and bring increased shower chances," EMO said.

EMO is advising the public to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches as wind and wave conditions support dangerous rip currents. Rip currents are life threatening to anyone entering the water. ***(EMO)***

Bill eyes $3M federal funds for NMC

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A lawmaker has proposed legislation to re-appropriate $3 million of federal funds to Northern Marianas College.

The money is part of the $3.7-million funding provided this year by the U.S. Department of the Interior for the closure the Puerto Rico dump.

Under the bill sponsored by Rep. David M. Apatang, $2 million will be used for building improvements and purchase of collateral equipment at NMC. The other $1 million will go to the design of a new college campus.

The projects are seen to help NMC meet accreditation standards.

NMC is currently at risk of losing its accreditation. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges- Western Association of Schools and Colleges recently ordered NMC to show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. NMC has only a few months to comply with the order.

The commission took the action against NMC because the college has failed to address problems that had been ongoing for many years.

Part of the concerns is NMC's dilapidated facilities and outdated equipment.

The NMC building in Fina Sisu was constructed during the Naval Administration in 1959 and was used as a hospital. NMC moved to the building after the hospital relocated to Garapan in the early 1980s.

The NMC building was damaged during Typhoon Kim in 1986 and was partially renovated through funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

WASC has recommended, as a short-term solution to safety concerns, that the college repair its building. A long-term approach will be to build a new campus.

NMC projects that a new campus will cost $20 million to $30 million. An exact figure will not be determined until an architectural and engineering design has been completed.

As of Jan. 24, 2008, the Northern Marianas had some $57.4 million in CIP funds sitting with the federal government.

TINIAN KIDS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Children play around a coconut tree at Tachogna Beach on the beautiful and tranquil island of Tinian.

Taotao Tano backs minimum wage hikes

Local advocacy group Taotao Tano CNMI has expressed full support for the minimum wage increases in the CNMI.

In a statement issued Thursday, Taotao Tano president Greg Cruz said his group supports the minimum wage increase "100 percent."

"We [also] oppose the Fitial administration's stance to delay or permanently halt the federal minimum wage increase. American Samoa's wage problem is by far different from our homeland. The next scheduled rate increases should move forward as scheduled without any further excuses or delays," saod Cruz.

The local minimum wage is currently at $3.55. The next scheduled increase is on May 25, 2008. The 50-cent increases are set to occur automatically in May each year until it reaches the federal level of $7.25 in 2015.

Cruz said that local residents have long suffered a depressed minimum wage for many years and "it remained low for reasons that our people did not have a voice loud enough to address it."

"For many years business establishments have existed and profited from the common ordinary people, so it is time that they return what is long overdue. …Let us all stop the excuses of business economics and give our people and our community a chance to progress and better their standard of living for their families and the future generations to come," he said.

Cruz said the only local company that has been pro-local is Joeten. "They employ a vast majority of locals, young or old. We commend and applaud with honor the Joeten family for their many contributions in support of the local workforce and the general community." ***(PR)***

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GOP elects delegates for nat'l convention

Local members of the National Republican Party will today elect delegates to represent them in the selection of the party's presidential candidate.

The nine delegates will travel to Minneapolis for the Republican National Convention on Sept. 1-4, 2008. At the convention, the Republicans will pick the party's candidates for president and vice president.

The local meeting will be held at Garapan Central Park at 6pm today, Feb. 23, 2008.

Six delegates will be chosen today. NMI Republican Party president Tom Pangelinan, national committee chairwoman Mary Lou Ada, and national representative Roman "Bo" T. Palacios will be the three others.

Alternate delegates will also be chosen.

The NMI Republican Party received official recognition from the national organization in 2004.

Other U.S. insular areas, such as American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and Puerto, will also have at least nine delegates each to the national convention.

Sen. John McCain is the frontrunner for the Republican nomination to run for president. He has a substantial lead in terms of delegates over his closest rival, Mike Huckabee.

CNMI voters cannot participate in federal elections. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Chichin pui pui to film in CNMI

The Japanese TV program *Chichin pui pui* will be filming on Saipan from Feb. 28 to March 2. The program has been in existence since 1999 and enjoys a viewership of over 509,000 across Japan. Their target viewership are females in the age groups of 20s to 50s. The program airs Monday to Friday from 2pm to 6pm.

A famous comedian in the Kansai region, Toyokazu Koyabu, will be part of the show where he will try to make a special curry using local food. He and his crew will enjoy the curry while watching the beautiful sunset and the landscape of Saipan.

The estimated value of the show is $174,545. There will be 15 minutes of exposure for the CNMI.

Scheduled filming sights include Chalan Kanoa Beach, Smiling Cove, Saipan World Resort, LauLau farmers fields and the Garapan area.

"We look forward to having the CNMI featured in Japan," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the resumption of the Osaka-Saipan flight, more Japanese travelers have an opportunity to enjoy our beautiful islands." ***(MVA)***

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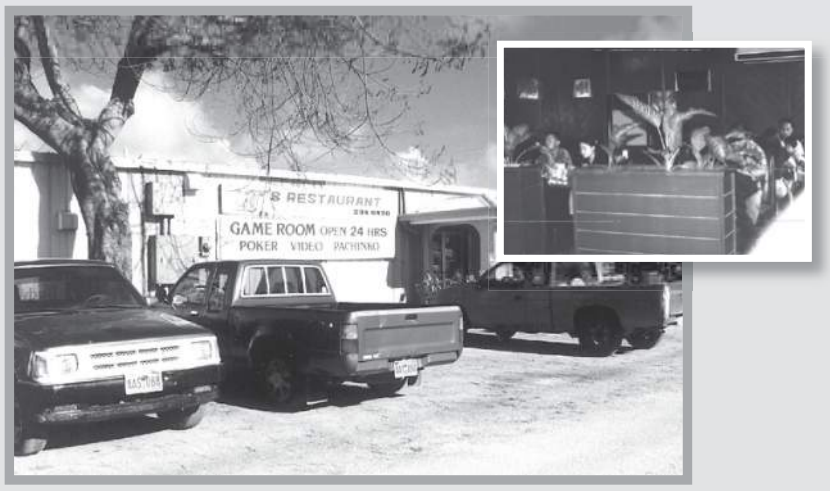

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NMC looking to hire GPSS employee

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Guam Public School System's William Castro will be leaving his post as chief planner, a position he has held for only a few months, after deciding to serve at the Northern Marianas College.

Castro was selected to become the director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at NMC.

According to NMC director of Institutional Advancement Mark Mendiola, "The HR Office has determined his eligibility for the position and went through the screening process such as interviews and contacting people regarding his qualification. This guy is highly qualified."

The OIE facilitates and coordinates the collection, analysis and interpretation of institutional data to support assessment and improvement initiatives and to support institutional planning and decision-making.

Their responsibilities include providing statistical descriptions of the institution; assisting with institutional planning processes; lending support to others' institutional research questions; and consulting with departments and offices about their effectiveness studies.

"We expect under Mr. Castro's leadership to be able to accelerate our program review and assessment activities," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

It was reported that Castro received $36,000 a year at GPSS as chief planner, then it was upped to $55,000 while serving as the acting associate superintendent for vocational education.

It was also reported that the move to Saipan would allow him to receive approximately $60,000 a year.

NMC declined to comment on how much Castro would be earning, explaining that it is not public information until proper documents are signed.

Mendiola explained that NMC is "in a real critical position." And that Castro's moving here "is going to assist us in the assessment base and data collection of programs and services that are provided through NMC."

The OIE position at NMC has been vacant since May 2007. The last person who held the position was Robert Churney.

Mendiola said that with Castro's credentials and experience, he would bring to the team a new perspective.

"We look to just getting over the hurdle of the accreditation issues that are raised with assessment. We also feel that this is a major, major milestone in surpassing the expectations of the WASC accreditation," Mendiola said.

Fernandez said that NMC "is pleased to have been able to identify a highly qualified candidate for the position…[and we] look forward to his arrival."

Castro had reportedly submitted a notice of intent to resign to his superintendent Luis Reyes indicating his last day with GPSS as Feb. 29.

TINIAN DYNASTY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The prominent architectural features of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino are seen from its fourth floor. The hotel reported that they enjoyed high hotel occupancy in the run up to and during the Lunar New Year celebrations on the CNMI's casino island.

FIRE

From Page 1

Reyes said the Legislature could use the money that would be saved from relieving LB director Joaquin Omar, who is paid $65,000 a year.

He added that the savings to the bureau's budget could be used to expand the Legislature's parking lot or buy a generator for use during power interruptions.

Reyes made the recommendation due to an apparent frustration over the House and the Senate's continued failure to reach an agreement on the LB directorship.

"I am sure that I am not the only member of the 16th Legislature… who would like to resolve the director and deputy director's positions at the Legislative Bureau. On many occasions I have received calls and have been approached by members of the public on the subject, and the comment most given is, 'Why has it not been resolved given that the 16th CNMI Legislature is privileged with a Republican majority?'" Reyes said.

On Thursday, the Senate called for status quo at the Legislative Bureau. The senators voted unanimously to adopt a resolution expressing satisfaction with Omar's performance and allowing him to serve out the rest of his employment contract.

Omar's contract will expire on Sept. 30, 2008.

The Senate previously wanted deputy director Glenna SP Reyes to replace Omar, saying she has the hands-on experience and is already doing much of the work administering the legislative bureau.

The House leadership said the Senate's decision is tainted by nepotism. Reyes is the wife of Senate President Pete P. Reyes. The Republican-dominated House has picked Ed Tenorio, a Cabinet member in the Babauta administration, for the job.

The bureau director is appointed by the leadership of both houses of the Legislature. He or she may be removed with or without cause by the majority of the members of each house.

2 NEW

From Page 1

The judge asked Sablan and Sound to immediately start getting surveyors for the remaining Malite lands and plan on how to divide it among the heirs.

Govendo said his goal is to totally close the probate "at least in the Superior Court" before 2008 ends.

Sablan is an advocate at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. Sound works at Northwest Airlines, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Govendo urged all heirs to make peace with each other and end up the bitterness to finally close the probate and save attorney's fees.

If some heirs continue their fight, Govendo said, the probate will be similar to a TV commercial of a toy monkey that keep on drumming until it stops when it run out of battery.

"This is an estate. Let's get it done," said the judge, as he vowed to watch all the attorney's fees in this case.

Attorney Stephen Nutting filed the petition to appoint the new administrators on behalf of heirs Rosa Maliti, Lourdes Rangamar, Rombert Sinounou, and Jimmy Sablan.

Nutting told the court that Sablan and Sound have been unanimously chosen by majority of the heirs to replace the previous administrator, Tudela.

Nutting said Sablan is from the heir branch of Jacoba Maliti, while Sound is from the heir branch of Elias Maliti.

The lawyer underscored the need to appoint Sablan and Sound as joint new administrators to continue the duties left Tudela and to finally settle the estate and distribute its remaining assets.

Only the children of Juan Somol objected to the appointment of Sablan and Sound.

The Somols, through lawyer Victorino Torres, said that appointing Sablan and Sound will only increase Nutting's attorney's fees and that this may overshadow the attorney's fees of Antonio Atalig and Reynaldo Yana.

Torres said the heirs represented by Nutting are taking a very hostile position against his clients in this probate.

Govendo told Torres he doesn't understand his point. Govendo said that getting back Tudela as administrator will only make Atalig and Yana file thousands and thousands of documents in court.

"They're [Atalig and Yana] not going to do that for free!" the judge emphasized.

Torres said that considering the amount that Atalig and Yana received, he is confident that the two lawyers "are not going to get another bite."

Govendo said, though, that this estate, which has been filed since 1997, is all about attorney's fees for both Atalig and Yana and not about closing the estate.

"It's not over [for them]. It's going to go on, on and on," Govendo said.

The judge assured Torres that as long as he is overseeing this probate and is not removed from the case, Nutting will not get $1.2 million.

At the hearing, Atalig and Yana were sitting beside each other behind the courtroom's bar.

Govendo kicked out Tudela as the estate administrator for mismanagement. Govendo said Tudela failed to object to an inflated attorney's fees that reached a total of $1.3 million. The money was received by Atalig and Yana.

Govendo suspended Yana and Atalig from practicing law for their failure to return the attorney's fees. The Supreme Court, however, stopped the suspension and set an oral argument for March 11.

NIGHTCLUB

From Page 1

plus $300 in special court assessment fee. After serving her prison term, the defendant will be placed on three years of supervised release and required to perform 500 hours of community service.

After release, Sun will be turned over to Immigration authorities for deportation.

If released in the U.S. pending deportation proceedings, Munson said, the defendant will be required to register as a sex offender wherever she resides.

Viola Alepuyo, who represented the defendant, had asked the court for just 33 months, which is the lower end of the sentencing guidelines.

A federal jury had found Sun guilty of conspiracy to commit foreign transportation for prostitution, and foreign transportation of a person in execution of a fraud scheme; foreign transportation for prostitution; and foreign transportation of person in execution of fraud scheme.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley prosecuted the case.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said that the Phoenix Karaoke, located on Saipan and owned by Phoenix Corp., was operating as a sex house using women who had been recruited from China on promises of legal jobs.

O'Malley stated in the indictment that beginning December 2005, Sun, together with some individuals, operated Phoenix Karaoke as an illegal commercial sex house.

O'Malley said that beginning the defendant perpetrated a scheme to defraud Lin Xiu Lan by asking her (Lan) to pay $4,500 in recruitment fees and other fees, in addition to other expenses totaling more than $5,000, in return for a job on Saipan.

The misrepresentations included a promise that Lan would be working as a waitress; that she would be employed by a company owned by the defendant; that she would earn at least $700 per month; and that her employment would be legal.

The prosecutor said that Sun agreed with an unindicted co-conspirator to have Saite Communication Development Corp. hire Lan as a commercial cleaner, knowing that she would actually be working for Phoenix Karaoke as a prostitute.

Scholarship program extended to NMC, 2 others

TAMUNING, Guam—Students of the Northern Marianas College in the CNMI now have one more option when applying for scholarship funds after the college was added to the roster of beneficiaries of the First Hawaiian Bank Guam Business Businesswoman of the Year gala.

Proceeds from the 2008 First Hawaiian Bank Guam Business Businesswomen of the Year gala will now fund scholarship programs at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and the Northern Marianas College. The expansion was part of efforts to provide more students with scholarship opportunities.

For the past two years, proceeds from the gala have funded scholarship programs at the University of Guam. Six recipients have received scholarship awards to date.

"I am delighted we are able to broaden the program to two additional institutions of higher learning in the Mariana Islands. Such a move underlines the continuing commitment our two organizations have made to support the education of our future business leaders," says First Hawaiian Bank Senior Vice President and CNMI Region Manager Laura Lynn V. Dacanay.

Maureen N. Maratita, publisher of *Guam Business*, says, "I recently toured Guam Community College and the Northern Marianas College, and I am impressed with new programs and endeavors at both facilities. We look forward to awarding scholarships to students at the three locations as a result of this year's gala and fundraising."

"I think it's an opportunity for our students," said Mary A. Y. Okada, president of GCC. "We are celebrating 30 years of career technical education on Guam it's indeed an excellent opportunity for our students to be given scholarships to help further their education."

"The timing of the scholarship could not have been better," NMC president Carmen Fernandez said. "We have many deserving students that are in need of financial assistance especially in light of the CNMI's economic downturn. Many students struggle to make ends meet, to support their families, and to pay for childcare. This donation will go a long way towards allowing our students to focus on their studies."

First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business are currently accepting nominations for businesswomen in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Nominations may be submitted by local businesses and civic and women's organizations.

The winner will be selected by a panel of judges to include businesswomen and leaders in the community. The ideal candidate for the Maga'haga Award will be a woman who has made a significant difference to business through her organization or business, has contributed to the community, is a leading representative of her profession or field and displays the best qualities of a woman in business.

Nomination forms are available at all First Hawaiian Bank branches, the *Guam Business* office at the Foremost Compound and online at www.guambusinessmagazine.com. The deadline to submit nominations is March 5, 2008.

The 2008 Maga'haga Award will be given to the Businesswoman of the Year at a gala on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the May/June issue of *Guam Business*, featuring a commissioned photo study of the recipient on its cover.

Submit nominations to:

Editor - *Guam Business*, Foremost Compound

E-mail: gb_editor@glimpsesofguam.com

Fax: 671-649-8883

Bank of Guam offers college scholarships

HAGATNA, GUAM—For the fifth consecutive year, the Bank of Guam is offering local high school seniors an opportunity to apply for up to $5,000 in grants through its participation with the 2008 Education Exchange College Grant Program.

Totaling $50,000 in grants for 2008, the Education Exchange Program is open to all college-bound, high school seniors graduating this year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and able to provide written acceptance to an accredited 4-year college by May 15, 2008. Other information includes an official copy of the high -school transcript and two letters of recommendation.

Students must mail their completed applications and supporting documents directly to the ACCEL/Exchange Network in New Jersey. The application package must be postmarked not later than March 15, 2008.

Under the program, a total of four $5,000 grants and 30 $1,000 grants will be awarded by July 2008.

In 2006, three Guam students were awarded a record $7,000. Neeraj Nagarajan, a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, was awarded $5,000 and attends Princeton University, while Justin Law, a graduate of St. John's School was awarded $1,000 and attends Texas A&M University. Zard Apuya was also awarded $1,000 and is at the University of Guam. The 2004 awardee, Anita Lai from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, is at Santa Clara University, while the 2005 winner, Patrick Wolff, Jr., a JFK High School graduate is at the University of Pennsylvania.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches.

For additional information, contact Jackie Arriola Marati at 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com. ***(BoG)***

Bordallo named to Merchant Marine Academy's board

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo was recently appointed by Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, to serve a two-year term on the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors.

Bordallo joins other members of Congress, including Reps. Steve Israel of New York, Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland, Peter T. King of New York, Carolyn McCarthy of New York and Jeff Miller of Florida as well as Sens. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, Ted Stevens of Alaska, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Frank R. Lautenberg from New Jersey on the Board of Visitors.

The mission of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is to educate midshipmen to serve in the various maritime industries and the U.S. Merchant Marine upon graduation. The U.S. Merchant Marine is composed of vessels of all types that travel in and around the nation bringing in U.S. goods bound for foreign markets, or arriving in U.S. harbors with merchandise and materials for American consumers.

As a member of the Merchant Marine Board of Visitors, Bordallo will be responsible for making recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

Recently, the Board of Visitors met in the U.S. Capitol with Sean Connaughton, Maritime Administrator, and Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters for the new Board's inaugural meeting. During the meeting the group made it a top priority to work closely with the Academy's leadership to increase visibility of the Academy to prospective students across the country.

"Our nation's merchant marines are critical to ensuring the viability of the maritime industry. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy fulfills a vital role in training officers who serve in the Merchant Marines or who accept commissions in the U.S. Navy. The midshipmen who attend the Merchant Marine Academy are outstanding men and women and the Board is committed to ensuring they continue to receive a first class education," Bordallo said. "Serving on the Board of Visitors will allow me to help promote the Merchant Marine Academy in our Pacific region. I also look forward to participating as a board member with my colleagues to improve the Academy so that it adapts to the challenges of the 21st century." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo discusses upcoming Board of Visitors meetings with Sean Connaughton, Maritime Administrator of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez pose with members of the Counseling Steering Committee and other school counselors after the proclamation signing of CNMI School Counselor's Week.

Villagomez declares School Counselors' Week

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov Tim Villagomez has proclaimed Feb. 25 to 29 as CNMI School Counselor's Week during a proclamation signing Thursday.

The signing of the proclamation highlights the importance of school guidance counselors and the important role they play to help each student reach their full potential.

Read by Counseling Steering Committee chair and Hopwood counselor Patty Mendoza, the proclamation stated that school counselors are "actively committed to students exploring their abilities, stretching their interest and talents as these are the traits that relate to career awareness and development."

It went to say that, "School counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal, and social growth of their children."

The role of school counselors is to work with teachers and other educators and specialists to help students explore their full potential and set realistic goals for themselves.

They also seek to identify and utilize community resources that can "enhance and compliment comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become more productive members of society."

"The comprehensive developmental counseling school programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that allows all students to achieve success in school," Mendoza read.

After the proclamation signing, Villagomez shared his thoughts on the importance of school guidance counselors, saying that many take for granted the duties and responsibilities of school counselors.

In addition to focusing on a student's academic achievements and career developments, Villagomez said school counselors essentially provide "individual students the help to become better productive people in the society."

Villagomez spoke of a House resolution that had been introduced that recognizes the importance of school counselors.

"Not only does it speak of the important functions of school counselors, but the funding needed to enhance their careers," Villagomez said.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Crossing a line

It's getting ugly out there for illegal immigrants. States and cities are cracking down with harsh new ordinances, and the courts are upholding them. Not only are deportations at record highs, but immigrants are being detained at places previously understood to be off-limits, such as schools. The debate about illegal immigration, labor, social justice and international trade has devolved into open season on illegal immigrants.

Arizona penalizes employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, suspending their business license for 10 days for the first offense, revoking it permanently for the second. Valley Park in Missouri fines businesses that hire illegal immigrants. Oklahoma not only forbids their hiring and bars them from receiving tax-supported services—except health care—it also makes it a felony for anyone to transport, shelter or conceal illegal immigrants.

It's nothing new for states and municipalities to try to regulate immigration. California pioneered that trail in 1994 with the passage of Proposition 187, which sought to discourage illegal immigration by denying noncitizens a range of public services. Last year, Hazleton, Pa., caught the nation's attention when it tried to criminalize landlords who rent to illegal immigrants and deny business permits to companies that hire them. Until recently, however, the courts stood as a bulwark against this spate of angry—and often unconstitutional—ordinances, ruling that immigration is federal territory.

Not anymore. In Arizona, Missouri and Oklahoma, business groups or immigration advocates sued to block the new laws, and in each case federal judges upheld them. The Oklahoma ruling is particularly pernicious. With the spirit of Dred Scott hovering over his pen, Judge James H. Payne wrote that illegal immigrants do not have the right to sue: "An illegal alien, in willful violation of federal immigration law, is without standing to challenge the constitutionality of a state law, when compliance with federal law would absolve the illegal alien's constitutional dilemma."

Unfortunately, Payne's dehumanizing tone echoes the callous treatment that too often is accorded illegal immigrants. In Roswell, N.M., an 18-year-old pregnant student was turned in to immigration officials by her high school's security officer and ultimately deported. In East Oakland, Calif., a pregnant mother was arrested at her daughter's elementary school, even though immigration officials say schools should be off-limits and pregnant and nursing women should not be arrested.

That illegal immigrants living in the United States place an economic burden on schools, hospitals, prisons and other public services is undeniable, but it's also true that they contribute to our economy and our society in myriad ways. Bullying them into leaving is counterproductive and downright mean. It's also shortsighted. Many immigrant families are blended, made up of legal immigrants, illegal ones and U.S.-born citizens. Harsh laws and deportations may satisfy the popular hunger for instantaneous immigration reform, but the result will be a legacy of anguish and resentment among millions of people who aren't going anywhere.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Unfettered speech, now

By BRADLEY A. SMITH and STEVE SIMPSON
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Most Americans probably assume that they can gather with friends and neighbors to say whatever they want about politics to whoever is willing to listen. They presume that the First Amendment protects their right to get together and buy yard signs, publish newsletters or pay for radio or television ads urging people to vote for or against a candidate—and to do so free of government interference.

Unfortunately, most Americans would be wrong. Today, when Americans band together and spend even small amounts of money to advocate the election or defeat of a candidate, they must submit to government regulation and limits on the funds they can raise. Because of these campaign finance laws, the presumption in favor of free speech rooted in the First Amendment has largely given way to a presumption of regulation.

The case of SpeechNow.org shows how far the pendulum has swung away from constitutionally protected political expression.

Political activist David Keating created SpeechNow.org to give individual Americans a way to speak about candidates free of the byzantine campaign finance regulations that apply to modern political speech. The group's particular mission is to protect First Amendment rights at the ballot box—to buy ads urging citizens to vote for politicians who support free speech and against those who do not—but its model could be applied to any issue or candidate a group of voters cares about.

SpeechNow.org is an independent group of citizens spending their own money on their own speech. It does not accept corporate or union contributions, makes no donations to politicians or parties and does not coordinate its activities with them. It will also fully disclose its contributions and expenditures to the Federal Election Commission.

SpeechNow.org is simply Americans pooling their resources to talk to other Americans about whom to elect to office.

Nonetheless, according to federal campaign finance laws and the FEC, SpeechNow.org must become a "political committee," a PAC, and comply with a host of regulations that rival the tax laws in burden and complexity. Failure to do so could result in up to five years in prison for contributors and the principals of the group.

Political committees cannot accept more than $5,000 per year from any one person. With the high cost of radio and television ads, this contribution limit effectively bars all but the most sophisticated groups—those with professional fundraisers and the time to accumulate millions of dollars in small increments—from competing in the political marketplace of ideas. No wonder politics has become an insider's game.

These laws are allegedly justified by the need to prevent "corruption." But how can a group of individuals who will never give a penny to a political candidate raise any concerns about corruption? If simply urging citizens to vote one way or another is corrupt, democracy itself is corrupt.

In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court has long held that the government cannot limit what an individual spends to promote her political views, even if she tells people how to vote. It is common sense that groups of individuals should have the same rights. No one should have to sacrifice the First Amendment right to associate in order to exercise the First Amendment right to speak.

Imposing limits on groups such as SpeechNow.org ends up hurting the very people whom backers of campaign finance regulation always claim they're trying to help—people of average means who must pool their resources to be heard—while leaving the field to the very wealthy to spend what they please.

Those are among the claims SpeechNow.org and its members made in a lawsuit filed this week in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. It challenges the constitutionality of requiring independent groups of citizens to register and organize as political committees. For the first time, federal courts will be asked to decide whether independent political speech by groups of individual American citizens has the full protection of the First Amendment.

Would a victory for SpeechNow.org allow groups of citizens to spend unlimited funds to influence the outcome of elections? Yes. And that is exactly why SpeechNow.org should prevail.

The First Amendment guarantees the right of citizens to urge political change, and elections present an ideal opportunity to affect policy by affecting the political futures of those who make it. That requires telling voters how they should vote.

A victory for SpeechNow.org would bring federal campaign finance laws into line with the constitutional principles of free speech and association, and bring them closer to the First Amendment that most Americans already believe we have.

Smith is chairman of the Center for Competitive Politics and a former Federal Election Commission chairman. Simpson is a senior attorney at the Institute for Justice. They represent SpeechNow.org.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't fight Asian ascendancy

By KISHORE MAHBUBANI
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Mahbubani is dean of the school of public policy at the National University of Singapore and author of The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East.

We are entering a new era of world history: the end of Western domination and the arrival of the Asian century. The question is: Will Washington wake up to this reality? When the new president meets with schedulers in January, will he or she say, "Cut down on the visits to Europe. Send me across the Pacific, not the Atlantic. The G-8 represents a sunset process. Let us focus on the new sunrise organizations in Asia."

If such a shift seems inconceivable, it shows how much old mental maps continue to cloud the vision of leading Americans. The West has so dominated world history for the past 200 years that we forget that from the year 1 to the year 1820, the two largest economies in the world (as demonstrated by British economic historian Angus Maddison) were China and India. A study by Goldman Sachs in 2003 confidently predicted that by 2050 the four largest economies in the world will be China, the United States, India and Japan, in that order. A more recent evaluation by Goldman Sachs showed that this could happen sooner and that the Indian economy could surpass that of the United States by 2043.

The changes will be dramatic and happen quickly. Economist and former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers put it this way: During the Industrial Revolution, the standard of living rose at a rate of maybe 50 percent during a person's life span. Asia's current growth rate represents an unprecedented 100-fold (that is, 10,000 percent) rise in standards of living during one lifetime.

The paradox about the American inability to recognize this great shift is that the United States has done more than any other country to spark this Asian revival. In the 19th-century era of European domination, Asia was subjugated and colonized. As the United States became the dominant power, Asia progressively was liberated.

More important, before World War II, conquest and/or colonization were the only ways for a nation to expand its power and influence. With the creation of the United Nations in 1945 and the formulation of the rules of trade that followed -- efforts advanced by the United States -- a country could grow its economy without conquering new territory.

This rules-based system leveled the international playing field, allowing nations such as Japan and Germany to economically re-emerge without massive disruption to the world order. In this century, it may be China and India that peaceably emerge as world powers.

That would be a historic achievement. All previous shifts in global power (with the sole exception of the transition from Pax Britannica to Pax Americana) have been accomplished through conflict. In the 21st century, we will have a great opportunity to avoid this -- if we continue to abide by the 1945 rules.

One key element of this 1945 package is trade liberalization, an approach the world has sustained since the creation of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, or GATT, in 1947. Unfortunately, calls for protectionism are rising in the United States and Europe. CNN's Lou Dobbs has created a cottage industry by railing against unfair Asian competition. Similar voices are emerging in Europe. The first line of defense against any potential shock to the global economy is to resist these calls for protectionism. (The defeat of the populist and protectionist John Edwards in the Democratic presidential primaries fortunately shows that the United States is still resisting the slide down the slippery slope of protectionism.)

> Will the United States, under its new president, be a force for change and forge new relationships across the Pacific? Or will it become an obstacle oriented stubbornly toward the Atlantic? The choice will determine the course of 21st-century history, for if the United States chooses to work with Asia as it rises, we will sail into a more peaceful era.

At the same time, as new Asian powers emerge, the architecture of the world order will have to be re-engineered. Take the case of the two most powerful international economic organizations of the world, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. There is a 60-year-old tradition that the head of the IMF has to be a European and the head of the World Bank an American, a practice reaffirmed by appointments in 2007. Representatives of Asian nations, which make up the majority of the world's population, do not qualify. But Asia is now home to the world's fastest-growing economies, which have accumulated more than $3 trillion in foreign reserves. It is absurd to exclude Asians from the leadership of the IMF and the World Bank. Such anachronistic policies must be discarded if we are to engineer a smooth transition to the Asian century.

Similarly, the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (which has the capacity to make decisions binding on all countries) should reflect the great powers of the future, not the victors of World War II. One simple, common-sense step would be to have a single European Union seat on the council in place of two seats for Britain and France, as there will be a single EU foreign policy in January 2009. In private, virtually all thoughtful observers agree that this is the only logical solution. In public, no American policymaker dares ruffle feathers across the Atlantic.

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is absolutely right when he says that change is imperative. In our lifetime, as Summers has indicated, we will see more change than in any previous era. So, will the United States, under its new president, be a force for change and forge new relationships across the Pacific? Or will it become an obstacle oriented stubbornly toward the Atlantic? The choice will determine the course of 21st-century history, for if the United States chooses to work with Asia as it rises, we will sail into a more peaceful era.

Letters to the Editor

McCue clarifies statements

On this one planet we all want to live a good life in health, peace and prosperity. Some countries have these features, and some do not. Those that do are a magnet for the people of those countries that do not. No one is risking their life in rafts on the ocean, paying a smuggler ungodly sums to be shoved into a shipping container for days on end, or traveling weeks in the desert to get into China, Russia or Africa. They are doing these things to get into Great Britain, Europe, Canada and most of all, any part of the USA.

Here is the crux of the matter: People misunderstand my (and perhaps others) view of the contract workers fight for permanent status in the CNMI and USA. I and anyone can (and do) care for the welfare of the people of the world and still say that that laws should be respected. The living example of this is that the USA is the world's largest aid donor to other people and countries (we care about the world's people) but it has a immigration policy that is very tight by its citizens' overwhelming choice (meaning no, not everyone can come and live here).

How people move from one country to another is an issue that impacts everyone in the world, and nearly everyone has an opinion on it. I highly doubt anyone would agree all countries should dissolve their borders and let anyone move anywhere at anytime, as Mr. Harsany seems to suggest. I believe that everyone is welcome. What we have is a river of living laws that spell out how people are to be accepted into a country and society.

USA laws did not spring up overnight; they have been drafted, debated, amended, and then ratified. Over years and decades and further decades they have been revoked and changed by the citizens of the USA. The CNMI's immigration laws were negotiated with the USA when the people of Northern Islands decided what future they wanted, and the USA agreed to these laws and policies.

Since the early 1500s the people of the CNMI and Guam have been subjugated, colonized, ruled by an ever-changing outside master, as have the Hawaiian people or the American Indians. In fact the last 30 years have been the first chance the Chamorro people have had to attempt to rule themselves in close to 500 years. Not an easy task, and it was made all the more difficult by the 30 plus years after WWII in which *everything* was destroyed and then *everything* came from Uncle Sam. They negotiated and joined the USA in a unique, groundbreaking arrangement with the USA. Is it working out for the USA and/or the CNMI? That depends on who you ask, but economically it's certainly had its ups and downs. I think there have been more downs than ups, and by the fact that many sons and daughters of the CNMI have left speaks for itself.

Yes, there have been immigrants to the CNMI before, but basically all of the peoples of the CNMI in the last 1,000, 500, 100 and 30 years have been either Chamorro or Carolinian. The immigration laws that the CNMI made were never intended to allow the contract workers to stay permanently. If the framers of the law had a crystal ball that saw 40,000 contract workers trying to change the law and circumvent its intention, they would have never agreed upon it at all.

No, by the way, I am not an American Indian, but one of my brothers is. My other siblings are Russian, French/Russian, another is Anglo/German, and I am biologically from Scandinavia primarily. My parents were foster parents to four others—two boys from Japan, and two Filipinas. I was adopted into a family of diversity, love and acceptance. I have no ill will toward the contract workers. I'm unhappy that people have misinterpreted my political views with my feelings toward people. If I hated contract workers I certainly would not have stayed on Saipan and Micronesia for nearly a decade. If I hated people of color I would not have lived on St Thomas for almost two years. If I hated Latinos I would not have gone and worked in Costa Rica and Panama several times nor married a Panamanian and adopted her son as my own. You can care about a place and leave it—contrary to Miss Berueco's statement—ask just about any contract worker if they care about where they came from! While I was there I worked side by side with many different people and had friends from all nations.

If federalization takes place and widespread permanent immigration of contract workers becomes law, the Chamorro and Carolinian people could easily not have a homeland they control anymore. The USA has given control of large land masses to American Indians and Hawaiians; do you think its fair that in less than one generation we (the USA) and they (the contract workers) could strip control of the islands' future from the islanders?

William "Bamboo" McCue
Wellington, FL

What's wrong with searching for a better life?

So what's wrong with searching for a better life? Isn't it normal for people to search for a better life, for greener pastures? What makes you, William "Bamboo" McCue, think that Filipinos and the rest of the guest workers on CNMI are different? Do you honestly believe that seeking a better life is only for lucky people like you who are born with a blue passport?

Before I wrote this letter, I actually spent some time searching for the background of Mr. McCue. I wanted to understand where his anger for guest workers, particularly Filipinos, is coming from. As far as I know, you've worked with different companies on Saipan. Did you come to Saipan to search for a better life or just for the heck of it? I don't think you understand how it feels to be treated like a second-class citizen because, again, you're lucky. The color of your skin is different from ours.

Guest workers are vital part of CNMI, whether you acknowledge it or not. All of us are here because we are searching for better lives not only for ourselves but most especially for our families back home. Nothing wrong with that. I agree that we should know our contract and accept it. I assure you that we accept our contract wholeheartedly and with gratefulness to this island and its people. But still, there's nothing wrong with searching for a better life.

I will go home when my employer doesn't need me anymore because I promised my family that I will go home. Knowing my kababayans, I can tell you this much—I'm not going home alone. Most of us, if not all of guest workers here in CNMI, are going home one day.

You are blessed for so many reasons, Capt. McCue. Why don't you just thank God for your blessings. Live and let live.

Irene N. Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

The Weather

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲83° ▼74°	▲82° ▼74°	▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76

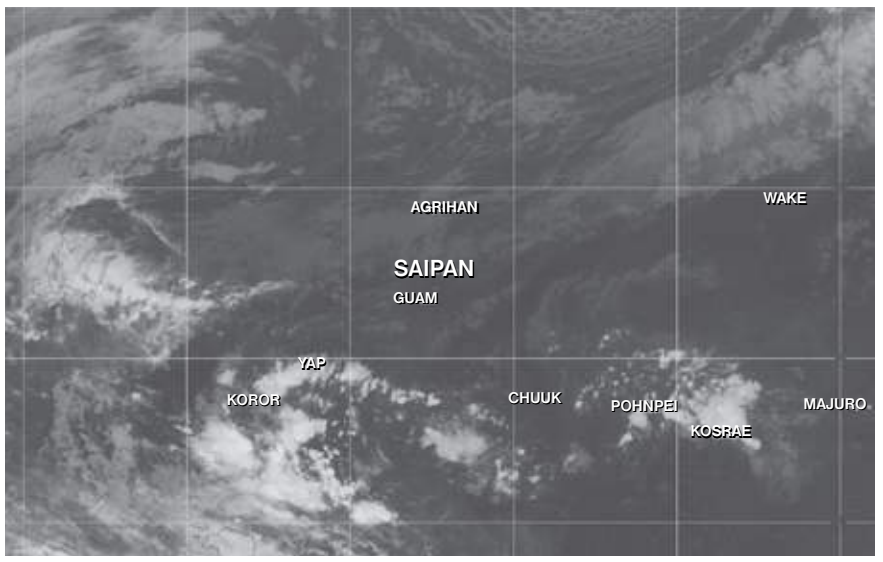
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲74	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼21
Hong Kong	Rain	▲67	▼65
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲55	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲64	▼53
Manila	Showers	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼50
Miami	Cloudy	▲86	▼70
New York	Snow	▲34	▼28
Osaka	Cloudy	▲39	▼24
Paris	Cloudy	▲56	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲43	▼23
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼45
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼35
San Francisco	Showers	▲58	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲34	▼14
Tokyo	Showers	▲48	▼38
Washington, DC	Rain	▲38	▼29

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:08AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:24AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:39PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:09PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An old shear line stretches southwestward from 22N180 to 20N165E to 13N151E then westward to 13N130E. Patchy cloud cover and scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles north of this boundary. Another shear line extends southwestward from 25N175E to 21N162E to 15N140E to 14N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of this feature between 160E and 175E and up to 300 miles to the northwest between 130E and 160E. A surface trough reaches northwestward from EQ141E to 10N137E. Low-level convergence associated with the trough is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a large area just east of koror. this area is bounded by a line from EQ140E to 7N136E to 10N140E to 5N151E to 3N151E to 7N143E back to EQ140E and includes Yap. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Marshall Islands between 5N and 10N from 158E to 167E. This area includes Pohnpei and Kosrae.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:38AM	6:23PM
Sunday	6:38AM	6:23PM
Monday	6:37AM	6:24PM
Tuesday	6:37AM	6:24PM
Wednesday	6:36AM	6:24PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:10PM	8:20AM*
Sunday	8:59PM	8:55AM*
Monday	9:47PM	9:32AM*
Tuesday	10:37PM	10:11AM*
Wednesday	11:28PM	10:54AM*

*Following Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Saipan-Shanghai			
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Shanghai-Saipan			
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service
(Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice
(Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice
(Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,

Koblerville

Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

FEBRUARY 23, 1999

NMC board bypassed
The House committee on Health, Education and Welfare pounded on the controversial pay increase for few employees of the Northern Marianas College during the resumption of its oversight hearing yesterday, uncovering arbitrary decisions made without approval of the Board of Regents as well as actions contrary to existing laws. Despite the austerity measures implemented by the government, the state college has continued to overshoot its budget in what HEW chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider blamed to mismanagement of funds - allegations repeatedly denied by NMC officials. The hearing, the fifth in a series of investigation into the cash-strapped college and the government scholarship program in nearly a month, made several disclosures backing up the charges, including the hefty raise in the salary of some high-ranking officials.

Governor OKs monetary awards for workers
A bill that will provide up to $3,000 in unpaid compensation and repatriation cost for nonresidents awaiting awarded monetary damages was signed into law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in another attempt to soothe angry guest workers seeking back wages and derail a federal takeover of local immigration and labor. The measure, hastily approved by the Legislature and the governor Friday, was put into motion upon recommendation of Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), chairman of the House Resources Committee, during his visit last week. A group of alien workers, mostly Chinese, Bangladeshis and Filipinos, told Young and members of the committee in a meeting that they have yet to collect unpaid back wages provided for in administrative awards.

FEBRUARY 23, 2000

Flat tax system eyed
The House of Representatives is now laying the ground work for the creation of a body of finance experts that will be tasked to review and draw up recommendations to change the existing CNMI tax system, Speaker Ben Fitial revealed yesterday. Fitial cited the need to institute measures that would simplify the current personal and business tax system in the Northern Marianas which, he said, is too complex and complicated. He said, however, that the lower house would carefully approach any element of tax reform to ensure the government continues to generate the necessary level of revenues needed to efficiently carry out essential community and public services.

OIA report on NMI unemployment rate disproved
The widespread use by apparel and tourism industries of nonresident workers from Asia has nothing to do with the alarming unemployment rate in the CNMI as claimed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, according to the accounting arm of the U.S. Congress. The General Accounting Office disputes claims by the interior department that the high rate of unemployment among U.S. citizens is caused by the garment and tourism industries or the foreign workers they employ. "We found no data that support the claim that unemployment in the CNMI is caused by the garment and tourist industries or by their use of foreign labor," the GAO February 2000 report said.

FEBRUARY 23, 2001

Court sentences Cabrera to 33 months
Down to the final moments of his sentence hearing, former Finance Secretary Antonio R. Cabrera maintained yesterday his claim of innocence despite a jury verdict that convicted him guilty on three counts of theft before the US District Court. Finding the ex-government official liable to acts of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, District Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced the 41-year-old defendant to two years and nine months incarceration. His 33-month jail term is to be followed by three years of supervised release.

Gang using Rota as transit point for ice
Customs officials are eyeing the possibility that a syndicate behind intercepted mails containing drugs is using Rota as its transit point. This, following the apprehension of another mail from Philippines two weeks ago by customs personnel detailed in Rota. A routine inspection conducted by a postal office staff yielded another Christmas musical card containing five grams of Ice. Customs Director Jose C. Mafnas yesterday disclosed that security measures in Rota Postal Service had been beefed up following the continued arrival of cards from the Philippines since December last year.

Business

Oil falls to $98 as US inventory rises

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dropped Friday after a U.S. government report showed domestic crude inventories rose last week.

The decline, which began in the previous session, marked a reversal of a trend that had seen crude futures climb to a new trading record above $101 a barrel.

"The surge to $100 and beyond earlier this week was overdone," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "It has little to do with oil market fundamentals and so it's not surprising that the oil market has pulled back."

The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration reported Thursday that U.S. crude oil inventories rose 4.2 million barrels in the week ended Feb. 15, more than the 2.9 million barrel increase analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires had expected.

Stocks of distillates, which include heating oil, fell 4.5 million barrels, three times the 1.5 million barrel drop forecast. Gasoline supplies rose 1 million barrels, in line with expectations, bringing gasoline inventories to a 14-year high and possibly limiting spring price increases.

Traders chose to focus on the crude number. Many analysts believe rising supplies and the falling demand noted in a number of recent reports means oil prices will eventually fall.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery lost 15 cents to $98.08 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract fell $1.47 overnight to settle at $98.23 a barrel.

March oil rose to a new settlement record of $100.74 and a new trading record of $101.32 before expiring Wednesday.

'US economy to slow further'

NEW YORK (AP)—The slowdown in the U.S. economy, coupled with a steady drip of bleak economic data, is starting to echo the conditions that presaged the country's most recent recession.

Data released Thursday by the business group the Conference Board showed its gauge of future business activity dropped for the fourth month in a row January. Its index of leading economic indicators has now fallen 2.0 percent over the last six months, the biggest drop since early 2001.

The index is designed to forecast where the nation's economy is headed in the next three to six months - and persistent, pronounced declines signal that a recession may be around the corner.

"The conditions are nearing those that historically preceded recessions," said Ataman Ozyildirim, an economist at the Conference Board. "Every recession is a bit different, but we're becoming more confident that we're nearing those conditions."

The figures, in conjunction with downbeat news about manufacturing and a murky employment picture, sent the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 140 points Thursday as investors feared the onset of a recession. Broader indexes also closed lower.

Stocks end lower amid weak economic data

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market finished with a sharp loss Thursday after bleak readings on the economy heightened investors' fears of recession. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 140 points.

Wall Street was disappointed when the Philadelphia Federal Reserve reported that regional manufacturing fell more than predicted. Another piece of bad news was the Conference Board's January index of leading economic indicators, which posted its fourth straight drop.

Investors have already been pricing in another interest rate cut - perhaps up to half a percentage point - after minutes from the Federal Reserve's last policy-setting meeting indicated central bankers will remain vigilant about the economy. The Fed, which meets again March 18, has forecast slower growth and continued risks to the economy from housing and credit markets.

Though investors been assured by the central bank that it will lower rates again if necessary, that expectation has not been enough to galvanize their confidence in the stock market and the economy. Wall Street remains concerned that the economy could be so weak that rate cuts, which take months to work their way through the economy, won't prevent further deterioration.

"The Fed cutting rates is a little bit like a fire engine pulling up to your house," said Brian Gendreau, investment strategist for ING Investment Management. "You're happy help has arrived, but still, your house is burning down."

The Dow fell 142.96, or 1.15 percent, to 12,284.30.

Nation

Clinton: Obama 'change you can Xerox'

AP

Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton stand to leave for a break during the debate at the Austin Democratic Debate in the Recreational Sports Center on the University of Texas campus in Austin, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton accused presidential rival Barack Obama of political plagiarism Thursday night, but drew boos from a Democratic debate audience when she ridiculed him as the candidate of "change you can Xerox."

Obama dismissed the charge out of hand, then turned the jeers to applause when he countered, "What we shouldn't be spending time doing is tearing each other down. We should be spending time lifting the country up."

The exchange marked an unusually pointed moment in an otherwise civil encounter in the days before March 4 primaries in Texas and Ohio - contests that even some of Clinton's supporters say she must win to sustain her campaign for the White House.

The former first lady has lost 11 straight primaries and caucuses, and trails her rival in convention delegates. Obama has won a pair of big union endorsements in the past two days.

In a university auditorium in the heart of Texas, the two rivals agreed that high-tech surveillance measures are preferable to construction of a fence to curtail illegal immigration.

They disagreed on the proper response to a change in government in Cuba in the wake of Fidel Castro's resignation. Clinton said she would refuse to sit down with incoming President Raul Castro until he implements political and economic reforms. Obama said he would meet "without preconditions," but added the U.S. agenda for such a session would include human rights in the Communist island nation.

They also sparred frequently about health care, a core issue of the campaign.

Clinton said repeatedly that Obama's plan would leave 15 million Americans uncovered.

But he, in turn, accused the former first lady of mishandling the issue by working in secrecy when her husband was in the White House.

Cindy McCain, like others, stands by man

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Cindy McCain did not hesitate as she stepped toward the microphone, taking her place in the history of political wives who stood by their men in the face of rumored or alleged marital infidelity.

"Well, obviously, I'm disappointed," she said, her voice low but clear and self-assured. "More importantly, my children and I not only trust my husband, but know that he would never do anything to not only disappoint our family, but disappoint the people of America. He's a man of great character."

She and her husband, likely Republican presidential nominee John McCain, emphatically denied suggestions in published reports that he had an affair with a lobbyist.

AP

Republican presidential hopeful, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., accompanied by his wife Cindy, speaks at a news conference in Toledo, Ohio. Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008.

A coterie of wives has confronted the public pain of such an accusation. Smaller still is the band who, like Cindy McCain, have spoken out.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former first lady who is battling Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination, memorably insisted to CBS's "60 Minutes" during the 1992 campaign, "I'm not sitting here, some little woman standing by my man like Tammy Wynette." She sat beside husband Bill.

Death of ex-cop's 3rd wife was homicide

CHICAGO (AP)—The death of a former suburban Chicago police officer's third wife has been ruled a homicide after a second autopsy showed she drowned, a prosecutor said Thursday.

The death of Kathleen Savio four years ago was initially ruled an accident. She was found dead in her bathtub shortly before her divorce with Drew Peterson was finalized.

Savio's body was exhumed late last year after he was named a person of interest in the disappearance of his fourth wife, Stacy. He has said Stacy Peterson ran off with another man, but her relatives deny any affair and say she would not have willingly left her two young children.

"We have been investigating this as a murder since reopening the case in November of last year," Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow said. "We now have a scientific basis to formally and publicly classify it as such."

Gates hopes to continue Iraq drawdown

ABOARD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday he hopes to be able to continue to reduce the number of U.S. troops in Iraq over the next 10 months, even as he and his military commanders lean toward a pause in troop cuts in July.

Gates

Gates, who is traveling to Australia for defense and diplomatic meetings, told reporters traveling with him that he thinks a "brief pause" to evaluate the security situation in Iraq "is probably necessary in order to be able to assess the pacing of any subsequent drawdowns."

While Gates still would not say how long a brief interruption in troop cuts might be, his comments signaled that reductions could begin again before the end of the year.

"I think my hope still is that we will be able to further draw down our troops in Iraq over the course of the next 10 to 12 months," he said.

The defense secretary's comments came as he prepared for talks with new Australian government leaders who campaigned on a vow to pull roughly 550 of their combat troops out of Iraq.

Gates offered no criticism of the Australians for their decision. Instead, he said that while the coalition values the role the Australians have played, he realizes that about half of their army is deployed, which puts stress on the military.

"We're concerned about the stress on our own forces, the Australians are confronting that challenge themselves," he said. The U.S. has about 156,000 troops in Iraq.

After a 30,000-troop buildup ordered by President Bush last year to quell violence in Baghdad, the Pentagon—under pressure from Congress and a war-weary public - has begun a plan to pull five combat brigades out of Iraq by July, without replacing them. One brigade left in December and was not replaced.

Australia's new center-left government—headed by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd—appears to be looking toward a shift in its focus in Iraq, from combat to a broader role in training Iraqi forces, advising civilian agencies and providing more financial aid to the country.

ACROSS THE NATION

LA police kill 1 in gang gunbattle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two gang shootings led to a police gunbattle Thursday in which officers killed one gunman, wounded another and captured a suspect in a surging gang conflict, authorities said. A victim in the first gang shooting also died. Two schools were locked down for hours and residents of the densely populated Glassell Park area were ordered to stay inside as heavily armed officers swarmed the neighborhood during the search. The police gunbattle followed two gang shootings around midday: the first in which a man carrying a toddler was shot multiple times and a car-to-car shooting soon afterward, authorities said.

Man gets 50-80 years for killing wife

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (AP)—A man who killed and dismembered his wife was sentenced Thursday to serve at least 50 years behind bars by a judge who called his actions "demonic." Stephen Grant choked his wife, Tara, to death, then cut up her corpse in a machine shop. After the killing, he tearfully told reporters he wasn't involved in her disappearance. "Stephen Grant is evil personified," Prosecutor Eric Smith said. A jury found Grant guilty in December of second-degree murder. Prosecutors had sought a first-degree murder conviction, but the jury could not unanimously agree that Grant's actions were premeditated.

Van driver in Minn. bus crash arrested

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Police on Thursday arrested the driver of a van involved in a crash with a school bus that killed four students in rural Minnesota. Alianiss N. Morales was being held on suspicion of criminal vehicular operation, the Lyon County sheriff's office said. The charge alleges that "driving conduct contributed to the death of another human being," said Lt. Brian West of the Minnesota State Patrol. There are six levels of the charge under Minnesota law, and all but one are felonies. County Attorney Rick Maes said he hoped to file formal charges against Morales on Friday after reviewing additional reports from law enforcement, including witness statements.

A third of recalled beef went to schools

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More than a third of the 143 million pounds of California beef recalled last week went to school lunch programs, with at least 20 million pounds consumed, officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Thursday. About 50 million pounds of the meat went to schools, said Eric Steiner, deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service's special nutrition programs. Of that amount, about 20 million pounds have been eaten, 15 million pounds are on hold at storage facilities and 15 million pounds are still being traced, he said.

Asia

Beijing airport beefs up security

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing's international airport will be installing high-tech portable bomb detectors as part of its security plan to combat terrorism ahead of the Summer Olympics.

Zhang Zhi, deputy director general of the airport police, said the new detectors will be able to warn of explosives in a few seconds, the English-language China Daily reported Friday.

Airport police have already been equipped with X-ray machines, anti-riot robots, and some bomb detection and disposal devices, Zhang said.

"But we need more and faster bomb detectors for the Games," he said.

Airport security is a major concern with tens of thousands of government leaders, Olympic officials, athletes and visitors expected to arrive in Beijing to attend the games.

Zhang said other measures will include setting up a security zone to prevent anyone from taking shots at aircraft as they take off and land. Traffic checkpoints will be set up around the airport. In addition, background checks are being conducted on all airport employees.

China believes terrorism is the biggest threat facing this summer's Olympic Games and has called for closer international cooperation to prevent possible attacks. China's generally secretive police agencies have sought advice on Olympic security from the U.S., Germany, Israel and other foreign governments.

Japan warns over US soldier crime

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's defense minister warned Friday that further sex assaults by U.S. troops in Japan could shake the two countries' alliance, while reports said the Japanese government will install surveillance cameras around U.S. military bases to deter crime.

The warning came amid a furor over troop-related crimes after a U.S. Marine's arrest last week on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old girl.

The Marine's arrest and a series of other crimes blamed on U.S. troops have heightened sentiments against the U.S. military presence in Japan, particularly on Okinawa island - where more than half the U.S. troops are based.

Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba warned that further crimes could harm relations between the U.S. and Japan, Washington's top ally in Asia and a linchpin of its defense posture in the western Pacific.

"I don't think an alliance is possible unless the U.S. shares the view that if incidents like this continue to happen, it could shake the foundation of the Japan-U.S. alliance," Ishiba said during a lower house parliamentary meeting.

Ishiba urged the U.S. to take concrete prevention measures, and said promises to improve behavior in the future were not enough.

Taliban bomb-making expertise growing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A ruthless new generation of Afghan insurgents is casting aside Taliban doctrine that opposed killing large numbers of civilians, instead using more powerful explosives and packing bombs with ball-bearings to maximize kills.

Just this week, some 140 people died in two bombings. Afghan security officials say the militants have started using C-4, a powerful explosive not seen before in Afghanistan

"It's not like Baghdad, but the terrorists are learning lessons from each other," said Abdul Manan Farahi, counterterrorism chief for the Interior Ministry.

The recent bombings are part of a bloody trend in the deepening Afghan conflict. Militants have stepped up attacks, and NATO has boosted its forces and taken the fight to the Taliban. Last year was the deadliest since the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, with over 6,500 people killed in militant-related violence, mostly Taliban fighters.

Both sides have caused civilian deaths. According to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and Western officials, militants killed 480 civilians in 2007, while U.S. or NATO action killed 360 civilians - many of them in airstrikes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China wants US satellite downing data

BEIJING (AP)—China asked the U.S. on Thursday to release data on the missile hit on an ailing spy satellite, while the Communist Party's newspaper blasted what it called Washington's callous attitude toward the weaponization of space. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the United States is determined to be open about the U.S. operation and told reporters during a visit to Hawaii that "we are prepared to share whatever appropriately we can." Earlier Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Beijing was asking the U.S. to "provide to the international community necessary information and relevant data in a timely and prompt way."

Pakistan opposition parties to ally

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's two main opposition parties announced Thursday they would form a new government together, but skirted the issue of whether they would push for the ouster of U.S.-backed President Pervez Musharraf. The agreement between the secular groups, which tussled over power for a decade before Musharraf seized control in a 1999 coup, marks an important step toward setting up a civilian administration to govern Pakistan after years of military rule. Asif Ali Zardari, husband of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto, and Nawaz Sharif, whose last government was ousted by Musharraf, made the announcement after meeting in Islamabad.

NATO: Suicide bombs used as propaganda

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Militants using mass-casualty suicide attacks in Afghanistan are trying to swing public opinion among NATO nations that have troops here, the top alliance official said Thursday. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said convincing people and Western parliaments that the situation is not deteriorating is of "key importance." The bombers "want to influence Afghan public opinion, but at the same time the public opinion in our nations who provide the forces," de Hoop Scheffer said at a news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. "Let's not give them a ticket to ride."

Time appeals Indonesian verdict

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Time magazine asked Indonesia's Supreme Court on Thursday to reverse an earlier ruling that ordered the publication to pay $106 million for an article that allegedly defamed former dictator Suharto. Time ran a cover story in its Asian edition in May 1999 saying the family of Suharto - who died last month at the age of 87 - amassed billions of dollars during his 32-year rule and stashed much of it overseas. Time won two earlier court challenges to the story, but in August last year the Supreme Court reversed those rulings and ordered the magazine to pay damages. On Thursday, Time filed a petition with the court to review the ruling, saying it was based on a "manifest error," the magazine said in a statement. It gave no more details.

World

Plane missing in Venezuela, 46 aboard

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A commercial airliner with 46 people aboard disappeared in southwestern Venezuela on Thursday, and authorities feared it had crashed after residents reported hearing a thunderous noise in the mountains.

Search teams were dispatched to the Venezuelan Andes near the city of Merida, from where the plane departed. The flight was reported missing 30 minutes after takeoff.

On Friday, rescue crews were being sent to the mountainous area of Collado del Condor, at an altitude of about 13,000 feet, where residents reported by phone "that they heard a great crash," said Noel Marquez, the emergency management director in Merida state.

The plane, owned by Venezuelan airline Santa Barbara, failed to contact control towers in two cities as expected after it took off from Merida en route to Simon Bolivar International Airport near Caracas, said Gen. Antonio Rivero, Venezuela's emergency management director.

Rivero told state television that authorities in the area "have information regarding the possible discovery of the plane" in the mountainous region. But he said officials have no information on what condition the plane could be in.

An air search for the twin-engine plane was temporarily called off at nightfall due to low visibility and fog, Marquez said.

Relatives and friends of those on board gathered in tears, some of them embracing, at Simon Bolivar International Airport as they awaited word from authorities.

Serbs break into US Embassy, set fire

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Angry Serbs broke into the U.S. Embassy and set fire to an office Thursday night as rioters rampaged through Belgrade's streets, putting an exclamation point of violence to a day of mass protest against Western support for an independent Kosovo.

At least 150,000 people rallied in Belgrade, waving Serbian flags and signs proclaiming "Stop USA terror," to denounce the bid by Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority to create their own state out of what Serbs consider the ancient heartland of their culture.

The United States strongly criticized the violence and the Serb response. White House spokesman Dana Perino said the embassy "was attacked by thugs" and Serb police didn't do enough to stop it. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the U.S. warned Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic that it would hold them personally responsible for further damage.

AP

The U.S. embassy in Belgrade burns after masked attackers broke into the building and set an office on fire at the end of a massive protest against Western-backed Kosovo independence, in the Serbian capital, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008.

UN introduces Iran nuclear sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Britain and France formally introduced a Security Council resolution Thursday calling for a third round of sanctions against Iran over its failure to suspend uranium enrichment.

The United States pushed hardest for the sanctions, but China and Russia - the remaining permanent council members - along with Germany have been in general agreement on them.

The six nations circulated a draft earlier calling for bans on travel and equipment that can be used in civilian and nuclear programs, more monitoring of Iran's financial institutions and inspection of air and sea cargo heading to or from Iran.

Iran says it will only deal with the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, which found last November that Tehran was generally truthful about aspects of its nuclear history. But the new resolution, elaborating on the earlier draft, encourages European Union to continue working with Iran on finding "a negotiated solution ... with a view to create necessary conditions for resuming talks" on its nuclear program.

Fish in space in motion sickness study

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Seventy-two small fish were briefly launched into space by researchers Thursday, hoping their swimming paterns would shed some light on motion sickness.

German researchers sent the cichlids on a 10-minute rocket ride that blasted off from a launch pad in northern Sweden, said Professor Reinhard Hilbig, who was in charge of the project.

"They were very happy, I think they want to have another flight," he said.

The thumbnail-sized fish were filmed as they swam around weightlessly in small aquariums during the unmanned space flight.

The German team will now study the video to see if some of the fish swam in circles because that is what fish do when they experience motion sickness, said Hilbig, of the Zoological Institute at the University of Stuttgart.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

NMI guest workers forum now online

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
EDITOR

An online forum for Filipino workers in the CNMI is starting to attract some attention, with users posting their views and opinions on a wide number of topics, ranging from the controversial labor reform law in the CNMI and the proposed federalization of local immigration, to working on the islands and general discussion of other topics related to Filipino life in the Marianas.

As of yesterday afternoon, the forum, www.cgworkers.net, already had 109 posts in 28 topics, and the number of new members was still climbing.

In a letter to the editor to the *Saipan Tribune*, Irene Tantiado said the website was donated by an anonymous Filipino guest worker together with his friends in the Philippines.

"[They] constructed the website and donated it for the use of all the guest workers in CNMI," she said. "I was browsing it for the first time today and I was surprised to see exchanges of intellectual opinions and ideas already going on. On behalf of this generous group of people, I invite the guest workers to visit www.cgworkers.net."

ON THE NET
www.cgworkers.net

The forum has at the moment five categories: P.L. 15-108, H.R. 3079, Philippine or other Consulate Issues, Working in the Island, and General Discussion. This website is also linked to other informative websites such as Unheard No More.

The most popular forum seems to be General Discussion but a check of the posts show that most relate to HR 3079, or the proposed federalization of local immigration. Another popular topic is the General Discussion area, which had 45 posts on eight topics as of yesterday. One of its threads, "Let's go to the mainland," had the most number of replies and postings, with most saying that, given the chance, they'd rather stay in the CNMI than go to the U.S. mainland.

One of the forum's users, Wendy, congratulated the group who set up the website. In her post, she said: "You have provided an invaluable service to the guest workers in the CNMI. May this

forum grow and the exchange of ideas flow and lead to great actions! Best wishes to you all."

Tantiado said the forum was envisioned as a means to reach out not just to Filipinos but to all the guest workers in CNMI. "Anybody can participate either by posting a topic or commenting on a topic being posted. By sharing information, we learn and by learning, good judgment comes out," she said.

The forum also aims to help. Tantiado is inviting posters to share their difficulties or problems. "No promises but we will try our best to extend help in whatever small ways we can. Besides, the more hands are involved, the lighter the burden becomes," she said.

Apparently this is working. Two of the recent posts relate to the recent deaths of two Filipinos on the island, Rick Alegre and Roberto Raquepo. A group has set up a donation system for the two, complete with an accounting system to ensure that the funds go to the intended beneficiaries.

"Trying times or not, I pray that we, the guest workers, remain unified so we can be stronger and our voice louder," Tantiado said.

Two Filipino films win in Berlin

MANILA—Two Filipino films won major awards at the 58th Berlinale Film Festival held from February 7 to February 17 in Berlin, Germany, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday.

"Tirador" by film director Brillante Ma. Mendoza won the Caligari Award, regarded as the most important award of the Berlinale.

The Caligari Award provides an example of a motion picture "frame story" in which the body of the plot is presented as a flashback. It is named after a movie character created by literary writers Hans Janowitz and Carl Mayer who viewed film as a revolutionary medium of artistic expression and visual story-telling that necessitated collaboration between writers and painters, cameramen, actors, and directors.

According to a report from Philippine Ambassador to Germany Delia Domingo-Albert, the Caligari Award is conferred by the German Federal Association of 150 cultural cinemas in cooperation with the film journal Filmdienst (Film service).

Co-director Anima Aguiluz received the prize for Mendoza who already left Berlin, according to a report from Philippine Ambassador to Germany Delia Domingo-Albert.

The jury composed of Julia Teichmann, Andreas Heidenreich, and Dagmar Kamlah described "Tirador" as a thematically innovative and stylistically creative film which successfully exposes the audience to events.

AP

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo salutes before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during wreath-laying ceremony at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes Cemetery) to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the "People Power" revolt that ousted the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos Friday Feb. 22, 2008 at suburban Taguig city, south of Manila, Philippines.

Bishops split on Arroyo quit call

By INQUIRER BUREAUS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—There is a strong demand among bishops in the provinces for the truth to emerge in the scandal-ridden National Broadband Network (NBN) project, but President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation or ouster is an issue that divides them.

Of the 12 prelates reached by the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Tuesday and Wednesday, only one—Puerto Princesa Bishop Pedro D. Arigo—openly said the President should step down.

"She should resign," Arigo said. "Tama na, sobra na (Enough is enough)!"

Zambales Bishop Florentino Lavarias said he would abide by whatever decision the leaders of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines would reach regarding the calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Pampanga Bishop Pablo Virgilio David, on the other hand, said he was calling for the resignation of the members of the Arroyo Cabinet.

David said the CBCP was categorical in saying that Catholics should "reject evil."

No qualified successor

"I ask the Catholics among [the Cabinet officials] to stop receiving communion, confess their lives and make the sacrifice demanded of them—repair the damage they've done to the nation's soul and well-being," he said, adding:

"They still have a way out of the hell they are in now."

Six Church leaders—Bishops Carlito Cenzon of Baguio, Florentino Cinense of Tarlac, Crispin Varquez of Borongan, Martin Jumoad of Basilan and Juan de Dios Pueblos of Butuan, and Cotabato Auxiliary Bishop Jose Collin Bagaforo—want Ms Arroyo to complete her term.

Varquez said that while he agreed that Malacañang under Ms Arroyo had committed some blunders, there was no qualified candidate to take her place.

Bagaforo said there was "not enough reason" to support the calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation, but her administration should rectify the purported corruption.

"My own stand is no resignation," he said.

See BISHOPS on Page 16

LABOR FRONT

Exit requirement's transition period

BY FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What will be the status of an alien worker who comes back to the CNMI after his or her periodic exit?

A: According to the new Employment Rules And Regulations, foreign national workers who return to the CNMI after six months or 60 days abroad are starting a new period of residence in the Commonwealth. No period of prior residence is relevant to status after return. An alien worker loses employment status in the CNMI on the last exit date available to that worker to remain in compliance with Commonwealth law.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What is the transition period for the periodic exit requirement?

A: The Regulations state that the transition for the periodic exit requirement is for the purpose of ensuring that these exits occur in an orderly fashion throughout the first three-year period after the effective date of Public Law 15-108 (new Labor reform law) and are not bunched at the very end of the three-year period. The Regulations admit that it would adversely affect the CNMI economy if all exits of alien workers occurred in the third year of the three-year period.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: When is the effective date of the transition for the periodic exit requirement?

A: Public Law 15-108 took effect on Jan. 1, 2008. It is also on that day when the transition for the periodic exit requirement is in effect. According to the Regulations, the transition will then take effect until July 1, 2011 or 42 months after the effective date of the new Labor reform law.

For the purpose of the transition, alien workers lawfully in the CNMI on Jan. 1, 2008 shall be deemed to have entered the Commonwealth on that date.

During the transition period, each employer shall have an exemption for key employees of up to 10 percent of the employer's total number of foreign national workers.

During the transition period, each employer may earn additional exemptions up to a total of five percent of the employer's total number of foreign national workers.

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Death toll from floods rises to 20

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Soldiers and aid workers rushed relief supplies Friday to tens of thousands of people forced from their homes by a week of flash floods and landslides lashing the eastern Philippines, as the death toll rose to 20, officials said.

After drenching Eastern Samar province, about 570 kilometers (350 miles) southeast of Manila, heavy rains carried by a low pressure system moved west to the Bicol region, where authorities ordered the evacuation of about 70,000 people, the National Disaster Coordinating Council in Manila said in a statement.

Many of those evacuated in Bicol lived on the slopes of Mayon volcano. Officials fear rains and floods could trigger volcanic mudslides, which have buried villages in the past.

The extreme weather has killed at least 20 people since Feb. 12, most from drowning, while two have been injured and five disappeared, the council said.

Schools in many areas were closed, bridges were washed away and dikes collapsed as swollen rivers overflowed, it said.

TV images showed truckloads of army troops distributing rice sacks and helping to evacuate residents in Samar and Bicol. A military C-130 transport aircraft delivered relief supplies in Samar.

'BINIBINING PILIPINAS' AP

Candidates for this year's "Binibining Pilipinas" (Miss Philippines) beauty pageant pose for photographers during a media presentation at a Manila hotel Thursday Feb. 21, 2008, in Manila, Philippines. Twenty-four Filipino beauties are vying for three beauty titles to represent the Philippines in international beauty contests as Miss Universe, Miss International and Miss World.

Ramos takes swipe at 'corruption' in Arroyo govt

By JOEL GUINTO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA—Former President Fidel Ramos lamented how the gains of the 1986 and 2001 "people power" uprisings were being lost to "greed, apathy, and corruption," in an apparent swipe at the administration.

Speaking before an audience that includes President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Ramos, one of the key players in the 1986 revolt, also issued a call to action: "History might yet call us to come together again—to offer our lives and fortunes on the altar of our civic leaders.

He said there were "oligarchies, dynasties, [and] opportunists [that we have] yet to banish"

"It is customary nowadays to denigrate the EDSA events—perhaps because the greed, the apathy, the corruption we brought down then are once again rearing their heads," Ramos said.

Ramos

"Ironically, Filipinos have always found it easier to die for our country—than to live for it. Times of peace and social stability, we seem to fritter away in bickering—in quarreling like crabs caught in a bamboo trap—with each one pursuing his or her self-interest," he said.

Ramos and Arroyo were at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes Cemetery) where the President laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to kick-start celebrations for the 22nd anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolt.

"Around the world, the Philippines included, there are new tyrannies in the form of self-serving leaders, immoderately greedy autocrats, and cliques of corrupt officials that we still confront," he said.

Arroyo is fighting off fresh calls for her resignation triggered by allegations that her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, and former Commission on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos pocketed kickbacks from the overprice of the government's $329-million contract with China' ZTE Corp. for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Manila Pen plotters told Neri coming to join them

MANILA (PDI)—One of the key players in last year's Peninsula Manila hotel takeover has claimed that days before it happened, rebel soldiers were told that Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri would be joining them in denouncing corruption in the Arroyo administration, but Neri never showed up.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer source said their understanding was that Neri would reveal in a press conference during the Nov. 29, 2007, hotel occupation all that he knew about the scandal-plagued $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China.

The participant in the takeover said the group never talked with Neri directly and that messages were coursed through third parties, purportedly including Neri's friend, Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr., who later blew the whistle on the NBN deal.

Both Neri and Lozada categorically denied the claims of the Inquirer sources.

The hotel takeover participant and other sources the Inquirer talked to in recent interviews asked not to be identified for security reasons and out of fear that their disclosures would affect the rebellion cases filed against the 18 alleged mutineers.

Neri denied he was ever in contact with the Peninsula group or had planned on joining them. He denied the claim Lozada had gotten in touch with leaders of the group on his behalf.

"I never intended to join them ... I never got in touch with them," Neri told the Inquirer.

Referring to Lozada, Neri said: "I am not familiar with his dealings with the military."

Neri recalled that he had "just arrived from a four-day trip (to) Korea that morning they did their thing in the Peninsula."

"I was in the central bank the whole day that Thursday attending my monetary board meeting," he said.

Reached by the Inquirer, Lozada denied there was a plan for Neri to join the rebel soldiers at the Peninsula.

The 18 charged in connection with the Peninsula incident included Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Army Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and other Magdalo officers.

High content of lead seen in 6 schools

By RUSSELL ARADOR
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TARLAC CITY—No thanks to vehicle emissions, six public and private elementary school grounds here were found contaminated with lead at levels that pose a "health hazard to schoolchildren," according to a study.

Conducted by Prof. Louella Ona, of the Tarlac State University's biological and physical sciences department, the study sought to measure the levels of lead in dust from selected public and private elementary schools in Tarlac City.

It also aimed to determine if lead was present in the study areas by comparing the results to lead dust hazard standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Usepa), and recommend measures for lead reduction and prevention of adverse health effects.

The study attributed the high levels of lead contamination in the six sampling sites "mainly to vehicular emission, particularly from motor vehicles that use leaded gasoline."

Lead is a gray-white, soft metal with a low melting point, a high resistance to corrosion and poor electrical conducting capabilities.

The study said lead "is a highly toxic metal that has long been recognized as a harmful environmental pollutant causing a wide range of health effects in humans."

Citing a Usepa report, the study said: "Lead poisoning has been linked to mental retardation, poor academic performance and juvenile delinquency."

The study was conducted by collecting and analyzing dust samples from six public and private elementary school grounds in Tarlac City.

Ona said school officials allowed her to conduct her research on the condition that the schools would not be identified. These schools had been chosen because they had the highest enrolment among public and private elementary schools in Tarlac City.

De Venecia mulls filing suit for alleged wiretapping

By ERWIN OLIVA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA—Jose De Venecia III is contemplating filing a lawsuit against former Commission on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. for allegedly wiretapping his phone.

De Venecia III has confirmed that the voice on the supposed wiretapped conversation, uploaded to online video sharing service YouTube, was indeed his.

Asked if he knew who was behind the supposed wiretapped conversation now gaining popularity on YouTube, De Venecia III did not mince words.

"Chairman Abalos is the source of this conversation because he told me he wiretapped my phone," he said in a telephone interview with INQUIRER.net which was hopefully not wiretapped. "I'm still thinking about it. I will file a suit but I don't know when."

De Venecia III said he was using a post-paid subscription number from Smart Communications when he called up Lozada.

"I was using my post-paid Smart phone. I didn't know my post-paid Smart phone was being wiretapped," he said.

De Venecia III said that the supposed wiretapped conversation happened "days after I came back from Schenzen [China]," and that it happened around December 29 or December 30, 2006.

De Venecia III also confirmed that Lozada was the person in the supposed wiretapped conversation.

"In that conversation, I was teasing him [Lozada] on the fact that he was supposed to be with me there [in Schenzen]," De Venecia III said.

De Venecia III said he was not sure if Lozada has already heard the supposed wiretapped conversation.

"My point here is that this is an example of the wiretapping that Jun said," De Venecia added, recalling the testimony of Lozada of allegedly being wiretapped by Abalos. "This is an example. If these guys can tamper, wiretap [us], then nothing is democratic in this society [and] for the investors. They can easily listen to your conversation," he said.

"So our oligarchs can easily corner the market," De Venecia III added.

Asked if he would have YouTube remove the video from its website, De Venecia III replied that even if he did so, he would not be able to stop the video from spreading.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

No saint, but 'not the devil'

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—At the launch of her latest product endorsement—the pain reliever Ponstan—actress and Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos, consummate pro that she was, fielded questions about huge national headaches, tossed by host Cito Beltran.

In a phone interview with Inquirer Entertainment shortly after, she admitted that the ticklish queries had caught her by surprise.

At the launch, she said she was "honored" to have been asked, but that she wasn't keen on being the running mate of possible presidential candidate Noli de Castro in 2010. She was concentrating on being governor at the moment, she said.

She was sad that intrigues were derailing "good programs," she added. "Corruption is everywhere, even in the private sector."

Santos told Inquirer that the only way to stop corruption was for "everyone to change."

She said she was intently following political goings-on, particularly the current Senate hearings.

The state of the nation was "frustrating," she said, "[but] I refuse to lose hope."

She said her husband, former Sen. Ralph Recto, often quizzed her on current events. Also, "I listen to the radio on my way to work."

In times of confusion such as these, she asserted, it's best to "first study all the sides of a story and not to react recklessly."

Actress and Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos.

Plus factor

She conceded that celebrity is a "plus factor" in politics. "When my [constituents] say I inspire them, that is the best compliment. Being an artist, I know that's what I give to people."

Trust is one more thing she has earned, she said, "through hard work and honesty. If I cannot deliver something, I say it. I don't like people waiting in vain."

She pointed out, "No one is perfect. I am no saint, but definitely I am not the devil."

Her husband guides her every step of the way, she said. "He's my political adviser. He checks all the documents to make sure I wouldn't get in trouble with the Ombudsman."

Definitely, she said, she isn't one to be swiftly lured by easy money. "Sanay akong kumita ng pera (I'm used to earning my keep). I've been working since I was 9," she quipped. "I tell my constituents: Please allow me to do movies and commercials. You know how well show business pays."

In fact, she is one of the highest paid stars in the industry.

Apart from Ponstan, she is also the endorser of Bear Brand milk and Ariel detergent.

There are three movie offers from Star Cinema—with John Lloyd Cruz, son Luis Manzano and Sharon Cuneta.

Plus, she is raring to take the indie route. She looks forward to start work on Raya Martin's "Independencia" in September or October. "It's something new for me. We will shoot for just 10 days, everything inside a studio."

Phillip shields Greta, Tonyboy from paparazzi

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Heads turned at the sight of controversial couple Gretchen Barretto and Tonyboy Cojuangco during their first public appearance after their rumored separation courtesy of Greta's alleged liaison with businessman Dodie Puno. Their exit turned out to be even more dramatic than their entrance.

Eyewitnesses at the birthday party of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada claim that Tonyboy had too many drinks so he wanted to go home already. But Greta wanted to stay a bit longer.

It sparked an argument between them. Phillip Salvador shielded the bickering couple from the fotogs and pleaded them not to take snaps anymore.

"Kawawa naman sila pareho. I just felt that they needed to be protected that night," said Ipe.

Having been caught in the web of intrigue himself many times before, Ipe knows what needs to be done and has the heart to do so.

Surprise treat

Rachel Alejandro is still in a festive mood after her best friends Geneva Cruz, Ricky Rivero and her BF Philip Palma gave her a surprise birthday party at the Vera Perez compound last Saturday.

"I was clueless," gushed Rachel. "Gen kept texting that she was waiting for me in Cuisine resto and she was all alone so I panicked. 'Yun pala scripted na lahat!"

Philip hired a mobile to play '80s and '90s music, which is exactly what the birthday girl wanted. Rachel's major want, though, is to make it in the US.

"I'm leaving April. I'll stay in the States for awhile to audition for shows. Philip is still undecided whether he'll join me. It will be hard for our relationship but my mind's set on my US plan already."

Will Philip's next surprise to Rachel be his ticket to the US and cloud nine? When your heart is in it, the sky's the limit!

Preggy role

Rufa Mae Quinto had a taste of what it feels like to be pregnant in "Manay Po 2," where she plays a baby maker.

"First buntis role ko ito. Kahit kunwari lang, ang hirap pala maging preggy," said Pchi.

In jest, she picked Polo Ravales among her co-stars in the movie when asked who she wouldn't mind having a baby with. What about the foreigner who was her date at a show biz party?

"He's based in Hong Kong so mahirap mag-bloom ang relasyon namin pero like ko siya talaga," she said, blushing. "Kailangan mag-effort siya lumipad-lipad dito kung feel niya ko (laughs)." I teased her. "So that means in your next interview, he will be an addition to your controversial BOYography?" Pchi laughed. "Hopefully siya ang maging last. Awat na ang listahan ko!" Good until it lasts or lusts?

'Mockumentary'

Hilarious duo Maverick and Ariel gear up for their Hollywood dream as GMA Films produces their first movie to be shot in the US. The "mockumentary" tells a story of two caricatured characters that are let loose in America.

For the ambitious tandem, "American Idol" is the perfect venue. They think nothing of the age and citizen requirements. They have plans on how to get around those rules. Will the special auditions be a bust, leaving their AI dreams in the dust? Find out soon in "Maverick & Ariel: Hollywood or Else."

PERSONAL FINANCE

Stock market investing for beginners

Question: I have been working for the past five years and have been saving money in the bank. I now want to move some of my savings to other investments. They say investing in the stock market is good, and that this is a good time to buy. But I don't know how this works. However, the thought of owning company stocks excites me. Please explain how the stock market works and how one should invest in it.—Bernadette

Answer: Many people find it exciting to invest in the stock market. Think about it—the concept of owning a portion of the fast-food outlet you go to, the airline you patronize, and the bank you have an account with and so forth makes you feel that you're on the right track when it comes to finances. You "own" something big and that feels good.

And that's exactly what owning shares of stock is—owning a portion of a company. You can be a stockholder by joining a corporation that's being put up, in that case, you will also be an incorporator, or by buying shares of stock of existing corporations either privately, through a pooled fund, or via the stock market. A stockholder is also called a shareholder.

If you buy shares of stock yourself (via the stock market or by directly buying from other shareholders or by being one of the incorporators), you will be given a stock certificate saying how many shares of stock you hold in your name. Depending on the kind of stock you hold, you may be given voting rights whereby you may vote for the company officers during stockholders' meetings, or preferred rights, where you will be given preference in decisions affecting stockholders' holdings.

The nature of stocks

Because stocks are traded every day, their prices change a lot. The price of one share of stock at 9 a.m. when the trading day opens at the stock market may be different from its price at 12 noon. Think of the stock market as a bazaar where sellers offer goods at a certain price and buyers offer to buy them at a different price.

The stock market is very volatile. It reacts to market forces and to the political and economic climate. Thus when there is perceived political instability, the prices of stock more often than not goes down. This is because nervous stockholders dump or sell their stocks in the market so they can take their money somewhere they perceive to be safer.

In the same vein, when investors get wind of bad news about a certain corporation whose shares of stock are traded in the stock market, some of them may sell off their holdings driving the price of stock down.

On the other hand, when investors hear of something good happening in the economy or the government or in the company itself, they will buy more stocks, driving the price of stocks up. This is the law of demand and supply at work.

Since the stock prices fluctuate widely, stock market investing is recommended only for:

1. Brave hearts who are aggressive and won't mind taking high risks for the chance to earn high returns

2. People who would like to invest in the long term, as doing so would let them ride out the market fluctuations and realize a gain in the long run

Getting into stock market investing

If you decide to invest in the stock market, there are two ways to do it:

1. Choose a licensed stockbroker. This broker will handle your "orders" and buy and sell stocks for you. You may also ask your broker for advice as brokerages employ stock market analysts who study the markets. You may choose to deal with a licensed broker who does the transactions by phone with you, or with an online broker you contact.

2. Join a mutual fund or unit investment trust fund (UITF) investing in stocks or equities. These pooled funds gather the small investments of several people then invest the money in a mix of stocks that fund managers think will do well.

Take note that investing in the stock market comes with additional fees: broker's commission, fund fee, and documentary stamps tax.

As to how much money to put in, you may want to start with the minimum investment required first since you are still a beginning investor. Some mutual funds and UITFs accept investments for as low as P5,000 or P10,000. If you will directly invest with a broker, you may be able to put in an amount as low as P3,000 depending on the minimum board lot or the minimum number of stocks one can hold.

Although you may realize high gains by investing in a specific stock, your investment may be safer if you invest in a pooled fund. This is because your holdings will be diversified—the fund will invest in a number of stocks, not just that of one company. By doing so, investors may be better shielded from greater loss should one company stock go down; the other stocks may compensate with gains.

About IPOs

When companies want to offer their stocks in the stock market for the first time, they do an "initial public offering" (IPO). The public is given the chance to buy shares of stock at a predetermined price before the stocks are put on the stock market.

A lot of investors look out for IPOs expecting to make a quick profit. In the past, prices of IPOs go up on the day the stocks were listed in the stock market.

Read the business page to see what companies will be having IPOs soon.

Other tips

You may potentially gain a lot in the stock market, but you may also lose a lot. Go into it only after determining if you are comfortable with taking high risks in your investment.

Hold your investment in the long term to maximize the possibility of having gains. If you trade often to go after short-term gains, there's a risk you may lose out on bigger gains offered later, such as when the company gives out high dividends or stock options, or its stock price rockets up. Returns from short-term gains should be enough to compensate for the higher fees associated with such trading.

Don't put all your savings in stocks. Diversify and have a good mix of safe and risky investments to have an overall better yield.

And since this article isn't enough to cover the intricacies of stock market investing, talk to a financial planner who will give you sound tips and guidelines on what are the market choices and what could best work for you. Citibank offers free consultations to clients and non-clients alike. Call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 to set up an appointment with the branch nearest you.

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Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Panic time

If the Senate hearings on the controversial national broadband network project were indeed nothing more than inquiries "in aid of grandstanding," as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye claims, why is Malacañang moving belatedly to manage the issues raised in the investigation? Going by the presidential spokesman's own logic, the cacophony of recent and even clashing initiatives cannot be anything but an attempt to drown out what Malacañang patronizingly calls "political noise."

Malacañang itself has been busy the past week with "fellowship" dinners among Cabinet members and "briefings" by other high officials. The administration has also seen fit to engage the media more assiduously; the instant press briefing it held with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, former socioeconomic planning secretary Romulo Neri and Bunye last Monday, to refute talk of the President as "evil," was unusual.

Perhaps the surest sign of panic was the "solidarity walk" the Cabinet took with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday. Meant to emphasize administration unity, the stage-managed walk inside the Palace grounds conspicuously placed the two Cabinet members most affected by rumors of defection close to the President: Neri walked right beside Ms Arroyo, while Finance Secretary Margarito Teves flanked Neri.

It was anything but spontaneous. Neri, for instance, went to the Palace only to take part in the photo opportunity; he was not even included in the President's next meeting at the Premier Guest House, the ostensible reason for the walk.

And it was anything but original. President Arroyo had done the same thing before, in July 2005, in the wake of the resignation of the so-called "Hyatt 10" group of ranking officials who parted ways with the administration because of the "Hello, Garci" scandal.

All these initiatives, in the context of the cover-up of the Lozada "abduction." It is now clear that the administration, with the support of the police, was engaged in an attempt to prevent Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr., the ZTE-NBN witness, from testifying in the Senate. There was, in a word, a cover-up operation.

What's next? Perhaps the entire military and police top brass will appear jointly on TV to announce their support for the President? Perhaps the new Speaker of the House, Prospero Nograles, will ride into Malacañang with a cavalry of congressmen?

None of this builds confidence, or restores credibility. As the cutting colloquial expression puts it, "Bumenta na 'yan."

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Minimum and maximum

Let me try to differentiate, first of all, between the court of public opinion and the court of law. While both can be manipulated, both have their place in what's going on. They are not mutually exclusive.

At stake in the court of public opinion is something President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo does not own by right but rather possesses by permission of the citizenry: her office. Her term of office is dependent on her ability to uphold her oath of office. She herself can be a judge of herself: She can resign or go on leave at any time. Her subordinates can be judges of her fitness for office. For example, the Cabinet can declare her unfit to remain President; if she challenges it, the Cabinet can throw the question to Congress to determine. Congress itself is fit to judge her: The House can impeach her, and the Senate then decides if she should be removed from office or allowed to remain. In any case, the only thing she loses is her office.

At stake in a court of law are things that public opinion has no right to take away: life, liberty and property. This is why even in the case of resignation or impeachment, the only thing a president loses is political office and the protections accorded an individual only for so long as he or she occupies that office (e.g., immunity from suit). What is enough to cost a president his or her job may not be enough to cost his or her liberty or property. Or it may be enough, but it has to go through a suitably long and difficult process.

What do we have in common with our representatives, who are the first in line to render judgment on the President? Everything, which is why the requirements for representative office are so slim: to be a citizen, to be an adult, to be literate. Juan de la Cruz has the same basic competence as anyone sitting in Congress today to determine the political question of whether the President deserves to remain in Malacañang.

The debate over the two courts hinges on this question: Where are we headed? Your choice of which court you prefer, or how the two courts complement each other, depends on how you answer this question. The problem is that the public is confronted with a dizzying menu of choices over what to do.

The simplest option is stay in denial. Continue chanting "But they are all the same!" along with the refrain, "But who will replace her?" and the challenge, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone!" I've never understood this combination of excuses, not because I think I'm morally superior to anyone, but rather, as someone who's gotten into his fair share of trouble, they're arguments used by kids caught with their hands in the cookie jar, or cheating in exams, or breaking their curfew, or ... the list is endless, really.

What's worse is trying to save face by saying, "I am not an apologist for the President but..." My attitude (and this apparently makes me some sort of extremist) is that there are no ifs and buts about it. The end result of these arguments is a vote of confidence in the President as a leader of uncommon virtue, with a husband without blemish, and sons who are exemplars of tact, refinement, and finesse, and an administration of unselfish public servants with integrity.

But let's assume that those formerly inclined to give the President every benefit of the doubt have inched closer to the attitudes of those who much earlier decided she's unfit for office. This is different from assuming that everyone now is on the same page. What then, are the options?

For some, the President should continue in office until 2010, on the off chance she has a Road-to-Damascus moment and repents and redeems herself. But even if she doesn't, the growing mood of public vigilance will hopefully be sustained, and thus keep her in check. The result will be no constitutional shortcuts, but a President who will bow out of office so despised, and politically weakened, that she will have little say in the choice of her successor. With virtually no hold on the next President, who would then allow her to be dragged off to jail. This is attractive to those who are fearful of things spiraling out of control.

For others, public pressure should be applied on the institutions that have, so far, helped maintain the President in power and on the President's people to come forward and expose what's going on. And as the President's people commit blunder after blunder, an offended citizenry will begin listing down names and vow vengeance at the polls come 2010.

This is a variation on the theme of redemption: The President's pet congressmen can redeem themselves by impeaching the President in October, and the Senate can redeem itself by being an impartial judge in an impeachment trial. This is attractive to those who want to channel public outrage into political action that strengthens institutions.

Others prefer that the President cut, and cut cleanly. She should resign. Should it end with that? Should the public take its chances with Vice President Noli de Castro? The constitutionalists will argue, the country has no choice. The Vice President could pursue the path of statesmanship, restoring the balance that's been lost, and pave the way for clean elections in 2010. Meanwhile, the citizenry can keep a close watch on him and lend him assistance, on the principle that it is easier to do the right thing if given a chance.

Or, there's the proposal for both to resign and hold a snap election, which one wag summed up as follows: "Snap para kay Erap." [Snap election to favor Joseph Estrada.]

Or the ultimate, nuclear option: regime change, a revolutionary government. As Apolinario Mabini said, "Drown the Constitution, but save its principles!" But who is to say the result wouldn't be a social implosion or, worse, the rise of a Filipino Pol Pot?

Resident evil

Jun Lozada would tell the world upon being pressured by the senators last Monday not just that Romulo Neri called Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "evil" but that he did so at least 10 times. It wasn't just at his meeting with Senators Lacson and Madrigal that Neri said it, he said it every time he talked about the "ecosystem of corruption" in this country (Lozada's phrase) or the "web of dysfunction" in procurement (still Lozada's phrase). Neri would always conclude about the spider that lay at the heart of the web: "She is evil."

Now, suddenly Neri can't remember what he said at least 10 times not very long ago. Which prompted one of the senators to ask sarcastically if he was really bright, as the station he has reached in life suggests, given his inability to remember the simplest things.

I myself would ask the same question, if in quite another context. Someone remarked to me last Monday that Neri was just in survival mode in contrast to Lozada who was in heroic mode, but I wonder if Neri is really showing excellent survival instincts. And I do not mean that either in the context in which Lozada uses "survival," which is not just the survival of the body but the survival of the soul, not just the survival of physical life but spiritual life. I mean that simply in the primitive, instinctive, sense of self-defense. You have to ask: Does Neri really think he can survive government, or even life, after having repeatedly called Arroyo evil?

He may, of course, deceive the public about it. He may, of course, be coy to the public about it. He may, of course, tell the world he can't remember anything about it. But do you think for one second he can deceive Arroyo about it, that he can be coy to Arroyo about it, that he can convince Arroyo he can't remember ever saying she was evil? Other allies have been punished more for less. Look at Jose de Venecia. In Neri's case heroic mode is clearly also survival mode: Be a hero or perish. But again the question: Is he really bright?

"I'll be the judge of that" was how he replied some months ago when asked if it didn't bother him that he was taking the cowardly, and unprincipled, way out. I said then, and I say now: No, you won't. History will be the judge of that, and it will judge you harshly. This time more than the last.

I say now as well: I will root for La Salle against Ateneo in UAAP games.

Still, we have Neri to thank, however he is its unwilling claimant, for the perfect word to describe the current occupant of Malacañang and her rule. "Evil" is a word that does not easily crash the gates of political discourse, being reserved only for the wreakers of mind-boggling atrocities, or for rulers who extirpate all that is good and decent in life. You listened to the Senate hearings over the past couple of weeks and you are left with only that word to describe this regime. It is not bad, it is not rotten, it is evil.

This was especially so last Monday when it became clearer than that Neri is a wimp that Lozada was met at Naia by people who meant him deathly harm. If not for Lozada's wife and siblings who were determined to know where he was, and if not for media which was determined to help them in their quest, Lozada might now be helping plants grow in Los Baños. Naturally the cops who insisted indignantly they did him the immense favor of securing him were a no-show: The senators' own sleuthing, which included visiting the scene of the crime, and which included securing pictures of the personnel involved in the securing, were ready to show their version of events had more holes than the bodies of the victims they "salvage."

Nene Pimentel would quip at one point while Lozada reenacted the scene with the aid of a videotape: "Did anybody shout, 'Pusila! Pusila!' ['Shoot! Shoot!]?" to much laughter from the gallery. You could not look at the videotape, particularly the part where the international airport's security chief Angel Atutubo gestures with a hand slicing his throat—what a first name, Angel!—and not remember those shouts from not very long ago. Kidnapping? Everyone involved in Lozada's securing should be charged with frustrated homicide.

How else call something like that but evil? How else call a regime determined to hide wanton pillage with easy murder but evil?

I don't know what's going to happen over the next few days or weeks, but I do know one thing: The people who are responsible for this evil get away with it again, then heaven help Jun Lozada. One is tempted to say heaven help Romy Neri as well, but why should heaven help those who will not help themselves? They get away with this again, and Lozada's sacrifice will not only have gone in vain-and what a sacrifice it is, one few of us will ever be able to make in 10 lifetimes-it will add macabre dimensions to the adage that no good deed ever goes unpunished. These people get away with this again, and we will have delivered Lozada to the scaffold.

I don't know what's going to happen over the next few months or years, but I do know one thing: These people get away with this again, particularly because we delude ourselves with the thought, "'Hayaan na lang' [Let it be], she'll be gone in a couple of years anyway," and she will never be gone. Evil will never be gone. Evil will be with us for the rest of our days. Arroyo's moves to keep power after 2010 were already there before Lozada's stupendous deed blew up in her face—in the ouster of Joe de V, in the attempt to resurrect Charter change. She gets away with this, and she'll know she can get away with anything, including ruling for life.

I don't know what's going to happen over the next few decades or forever, but I do know one thing: There is one thing worse than rulers that are evil. That is a people that will do nothing to stop them.

THE LONG VIEW

By MANUEL L. QUEZON III
Philippine Daily Inquirer

THERE'S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUTURE STARS

The Canape Brothers, Jacob and John-John, dance with Donna Galvez to the tune of Buttons at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Year 2 Saipan Singing Superstar semifinals.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

TINIAN FESTIVAL

Susan Cruz, owner of Sue's Creation and A/C snack mobile poses inside her booth during the 2008 Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival Saturday at Tachogna Beach Tinian.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Orleyne Tabucanon with her goddaughter Alyssa during the 2008 Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival Saturday at Tachogna Beach Tinian.

BISHOPS

From Page 12

Church as 'energizer'

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra called on the people to back whistleblower Rodolfo Lozada Jr. and on Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri to speak the truth about the scrapped NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp.

But Navarra stopped short of calling for the President's resignation, saying: "The Church is just an energizer in the campaign against corruption."

Laguna Bishop Leo Drona said he was one with the CBCP in its call for communal action in the face of the purported bribery and overprice that attended the NBN-ZTE deal.

He said communal action simply meant that the people should "pray together, reflect together, decide together and act together."

General Santos Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez said that instead of stepping down, the President should take a leave of absence for some "soul-searching."

Gutierrez also said he did not expect the CBCP to initiate moves to oust Ms Arroyo. He said that if there would be change, it should start with the people themselves.

"But the initiation should be a product of faith and discernment—soul-searching, analyzing and asking what is God's will," he added.

There are 98 bishops in the country, according to the CBCP.

'So much corruption'

Jumoad of Basilan said he continued to support the Arroyo administration.

"But at the same time, I also recognize the existence of so much corruption, and I hope [the ongoing protest actions] will wake her up [so she can] correct where she is wrong," he said.

Pueblos of Butuan, who is known for his closeness to the President, said: "We in the Mindanao bloc [of the CBCP] want GMA (Ms Arroyo) to finish her term until 2010."

He said the bloc would request a meeting with the CBCP leadership in Manila so it could air its position on the latest scandal to rock the Arroyo administration.

Pueblos conceded that there was a real need to combat "rampant corruption in government," but said the campaign must "start at the grass roots level and not from the top."

He said those involved in the NBN-ZTE deal should be criminally charged and tried.

Cenzon of Baguio said he was not among those calling on Ms Arroyo to step down because there were "no established or proven grounds" for her to do so.

Cinense of Tarlac said he could not support the calls for resignation because he had yet to hear the complete story: "I cannot make a judgment based on what I read in newspapers and see on TV. I'm still waiting for more information. I'm still studying the issue."

Mass for Truth

In Legazpi City, Fr. Rex Paul Arjona, chancellor of the Legazpi diocese, said the bishops of Albay province would make their stand known in time.

It may coincide with the Mass for Truth and Accountability scheduled for Friday in Ligao City, hometown of whistle-blower Lozada.

The Mass will be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Lucilo Quiambao.

But a streamer on the concrete fence of the Redemptorist Church in Barangay Gogon carries this message: "Oust Gloria!"

For a while, the message had merely read: "GMA resign!"

Last week, Bishops Ramon Villena (Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino) and Rodolfo Beltran (Mt. Province and Ifugao) and Cagayan Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan issued a statement urging the faithful "not [to] seek confrontation, certainly not revolution or violence" amid the crisis.

They said they wanted "communal action for deep reflection, discernment, sobriety and for the way of peace."

Slow burn

The CBCP leadership expects a slow-burn anticorruption drive against the administration rather than a sudden toppling of Ms Arroyo.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the CBCP president, said on Wednesday that apathy and cynicism about the last "people power" revolt that brought Ms Arroyo to power in 2001 meant that many Filipinos were in no rush to take to the streets again despite the NBN-ZTE scandal.

"The Filipino people, we together through communal action, must discover a new brand of people power," he had said.

ENOUGH OF A MORALLY-BANKRUPT DECEITFUL and CORRUPT GOVERNMENT NOW!
★ YOUTH REVOLT
Mrs. Arroyo, tell us how to teach Honesty to our Children! Akap Bata
Youth Revolt against corruption and deceit!
YOUTH REVOLT

AP

Young Filipino girls hold signs during a rally calling for the ouster of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Manila, Philippines, on Thursday Feb. 21, 2008.

Lozada files kidnap, murder raps vs Razon, Atienza, et al

MANILA—Rodolfo Lozada Jr., the key witness in the national broadband network controversy, has filed a case of kidnapping and attempted murder at the Department of Justice against police and government officials allegedly responsible for his abduction last February.

Lozada has named PNP Chief Avelino Razon, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, Angel Atutubo, assistant general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport; Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO) Chief Romeo Hilomen, Colonel Paul Mascariñas, PSPO assistant director; retired Senior Police Officer 4 Rodolfo Valeroso; and several John Does.

Lawyers for Lozada said that the basis of the kidnapping and attempted murder complaint was his alleged abduction a;;egedly by government operatives last February 5 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his arrival from Hong Kong.

"He was taken without the knowledge of his family who are also waiting at the airport," Theodore Te said.

The lawyers said that they also included attempted murder based on what they saw on the NAIA CCTV camera where Atutubo made a gesture of slitting his throat while escorting Lozada.

Lozada went to the office of assistant chief state prosecutor Anthony Fadullon to subscribe his complaint.

From the DoJ, Lozada will go to the 17th Division of the Court of Appeals to file a petition to summon former socio-economic planning secretary Romulo Neri to be a hostile witness to confirm the threat against his life, said Lozada's lawyer Neri Colmenares.

Colmenares said Neri could not cite executive privilege since it would be the appellate court that would summon him and we could cross examine him.

Youngstyle

SEPARATE AND EQUAL

Same-sex schools gain in popularity across nation

By KATHERINE SHAVER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—In Alexandra Huber's school in Bethesda, Md., it's girls only. Without boys around to judge her, 12-year-old Alexandra says she feels more comfortable speaking up. She also likes how the Holton-Arms School works to break up hurtful cliques.

At the all-boys Landon School, also in Bethesda, Noah Gear says his teachers take lots of time to help him understand what he reads. Noah, who is 9, also likes the extra hour or so he spends each day doing sports—in addition to P.E. class.

Noah and Alexandra are among the thousands of kids in the Washington area who attend single-sex schools. It's not all their parents' idea. In fact, they say, they like it.

"If you have friends, you have friends," says Noah, a fourth-grader. "It doesn't really matter if they're boys or girls."

More public schools are trying it, too. Nearly 400 public schools across the country offer some single-sex classes or programs.

It might not be a good fit for everyone. Still, supporters say single-sex classes help teachers focus on the different ways that the brains of boys and girls develop.

At Landon, for example, students write about their feelings because it works the part of the brain that controls emotion, which often develops more slowly in boys. Bulking up on reading develops the verbal part of the brain, another area in which boys tends to lag behind girls, school officials say.

"At my old (coed) school we read books, but we went a lot faster," says Landon fifth-grader Zach Cooper, 11. "We wouldn't go back and comprehend it. You understand the books more here."

At Holton-Arms, teachers share personal stories because girls often need to feel a personal connection in order to learn, officials say. Teachers also wait to call on students because girls can take longer to form thoughts that they feel confident sharing.

At an all-girls school "you don't have to worry about being criticized," says sixth-grader Justine Hayward, 12.

She and the others say they still see plenty of the opposite sex. "Sister" and "brother" schools often pair up for dances and other social activities. The students say they also have lots of friends—boys and girls—in their neighborhoods and after-school sports activities.

And what about when they grow up and must know how to work with, and for, people of the opposite sex? No problem, they say.

"I think it's more important to know how to work with PEOPLE," said Alexandra, a sixth-grader, "than just how to work with guys."

How boys and girls learn

Because of how their brains develop, boys and girls learn differently. Here are five examples.

■ Boys generally don't hear as well, so teachers must speak up to keep their attention.

■ Girls tend to get better grades. But because they are more critical of themselves, they also need more encouragement.

■ Boys often must be personally interested in a subject to do well. Girls often work hard to please their parents and teachers.

■ Boys tend to learn math by focusing on the numbers. Girls do better when relating numbers to real-life situations, such as in "story problems."

■ Girls often learn by acting out a story they have read. Boys tend to focus on the facts of what they have read, not how they feel about it.

Source: National Association for Single Sex Public Education

(© 2008, The Washington Post)

THE WASHINGTON POST

The all-boys Landon School in Bethesda, Md., is one of nearly 400 public schools across the country that offer some single-sex classes or programs. Supporters say such classes help teachers focus on the different ways that the brains of boys and girls develop.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Florida author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, best known for the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Yearling" and her memoir, "Cross Creek," will be commemorated Thursday on a U.S. postage stamp.

An influential story gets stamp of approval

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, best known for the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Yearling" and her memoir, "Cross Creek," will be commemorated Thursday on a U.S. postage stamp.

"The Yearling," published in 1938, tells the story of 12-year-old Jody Baxter, who lives with his parents in the Florida backwoods. Jody raises an orphaned fawn, which soon causes trouble at the farmstead, forcing the Baxters to make a difficult decision.

Rawlings and her book made a lasting impression on Jake Glisson, a neighbor in their Florida town.

As a high school senior in 1944, Glisson wanted to join the military but needed a high school diploma. Glisson, now 81, says he wasn't a good student, so he made a deal with his teacher: If he got Rawlings to speak at the school, the teacher would give him a passing grade.

"I said to Miss Rawlings, 'If you come and give us a speech, I'll pass English and algebra,' " Glisson told KidsPost.

Rawlings gave the talk, but not before confirming with the principal that Glisson would pass. He did and was able to enlist in the Army.

Glisson says Rawlings, who died in 1953, influenced his decision to become an illustrator of ads and book covers. "I was extremely fortunate to grow up and know her," he said.

BOOK REVIEW

Presidential biographies for kids

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"George Washington for Kids," by Brandon Marie Miller
"Abraham Lincoln for Kids," by Janis Herbert
Both books for ages 9-12

This is the month we celebrate the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents.

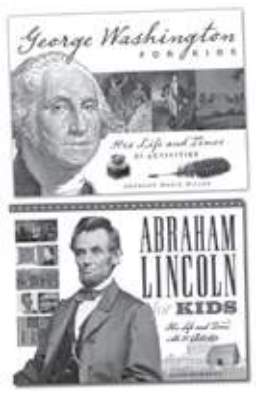
George Washington was "a real man, not a cold marble statue," author Brandon Marie Miller notes. You already know he commanded the Continental Army in the American Revolution, was our first president and had false teeth.

But did you know he loved to dance, play cards and go to the theater? And that he had two birthdays a year? In 1752, when Washington was almost 20, Britain switched to the calendar the rest of the world was using, and dates moved ahead by 11 days. So Washington's Feb. 11 birthday suddenly became Feb. 22—and he often celebrated both.

Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president, had little schooling—less than two years—but read everything he could find. As a boy, one of his favorite books was "The Life of George Washington," author Janis Herbert relates. Lincoln enjoyed a good joke and was a great storyteller: His tale of the preacher with a lizard in his shirt always got a good laugh.

But Lincoln also knew great sadness in his life. His mother, sister and infant brother all died young, as would three of his sons. When he was elected president in 1860, the country split apart over slavery, and a bloody civil war followed. He grieved for the soldiers on both sides—more than 600,000 in all—who died.

These books are well-researched and very readable, with interesting photos and drawings. As a bonus, each book has 21 activities to try. So you not only get a good story, you also can learn how to cut a silhouette, dance the minuet, make an Indian statue and use Morse code, to name just a few.



"George Washington for Kids," by Brandon Marie Miller, and "Abraham Lincoln for Kids," by Janis Herbert, are well-researched and very readable, with interesting photos and drawings. Each book also has 21 activities to try.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Valentine Corner

A special day to honor Saint Valentine was begun in the year 496 by the Roman Catholic Church.

It is not known for sure who the original Saint Valentine was, since Valentinus was a popular name back then. Some people think he was a priest in the 3rd century who was killed for secretly marrying people against the wishes of the emperor, who thought that marriage weakened his soldiers.

Many of the stories linking Valentine's Day and love can be traced back to 14th-century England. So if you give your sweetie (we mean Mom or Dad) a candy or card, you'll be continuing a long—and lovely!—tradition.

Valentine's Day—Just the Facts

■ Nearly 40,000 people in the United States have jobs with companies that produce chocolate and cocoa products. There are about 1,200 such companies. If you buy Dad a chocolate bar, you will be helping the economy!

■ Flowers are sure to be a bloomin' hit with Mom. More than $400 million in cut flowers are grown each year in the United States, with California producing three-fourths of that total. There are more than 21,000 florists waiting to deliver your order.

■ More than 190 million greeting cards will be exchanged this week, and that doesn't even count the packaged cards that kids give out at school. Did you give your secret crush a card?

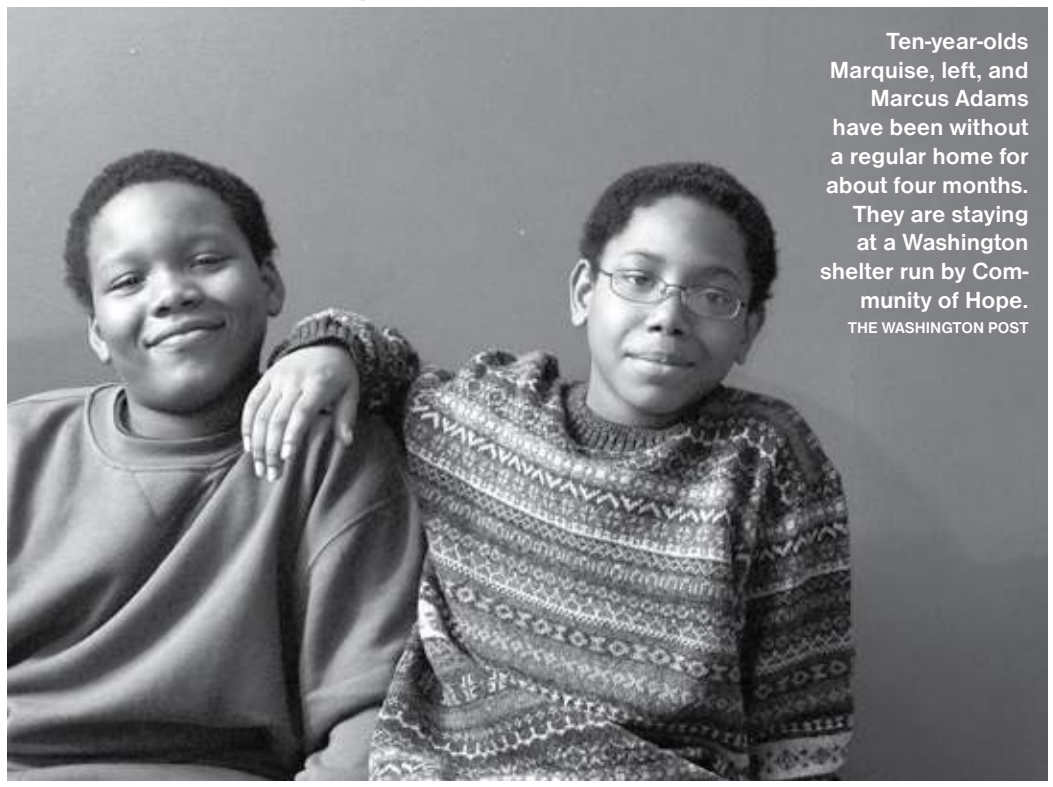
■ Lots of couples say "I do" on Valentine's Day. About 5,900 marriages take place each day in the United States, on average.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Hallmark Cards Inc.

(© 2008, The Washington Post)

Young and homeless: Twins are among kids living in shelters

By AMY ORNDORFF
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST



Ten-year-olds Marquise, left, and Marcus Adams have been without a regular home for about four months. They are staying at a Washington shelter run by Community of Hope.
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Up, up, up to the fourth floor the two boys loudly race. In the homeless shelter where they now live, there is no elevator to get them to the three-bedroom apartment they share with their mother and three older brothers.

Twins Marcus and Marquise Adams are 10. They used to live in a rented home in Washington that had a yard where they could play football. But that was about four months ago, before the person who owned the house decided to sell it.

When the boys' mom didn't have enough money to rent somewhere else, the family found itself at a shelter run by a group called Community of Hope.

"It feels a little bad, but then you get used to it," Marcus says.

The brothers are among an estimated 1,200 homeless children in the city, many of whom live in shelters.

Kelly Sweeney McShane, an official with Community of Hope, says the number of homeless people has declined slightly in the past year, but the family shelters are always full.

These children "probably don't look like what kids think a homeless person looks like," she says. "They are just like any kid."

Marcus and Marquise don't look alike. But the bond between them is clear. Their beds are next to each other in the room they share with their 13-year-old brother. (Two older brothers share another bedroom in the small apartment.) Marcus and Marquise like chocolate-chip cookies and video games. And both want to drive trucks or buses when they grow up.

Marquise says he hopes "to drive around the country."

The twins say they miss having a house to live in. But the shelter, which has 20 apartments, offers safety and stability.

Their old neighborhood had more violence and drugs, they say. "If we'd hear shooting and stuff, we'd go in our house and mind our business," Marquise says. "We'd think nice things," Marcus adds.

Although they hope their shelter stay doesn't last too long, the boys agree that the place is "nice." There is a computer lab on the first floor, and the basement has a small library and a room with art supplies, toys and board games. Volunteers come by to help with homework. As a result, Marquise and Marcus are becoming better students, earning B's and C's, their mom, Alice, says.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Twins Marquise, left, and Marquise Adams, who share a room in a Washington shelter with an older brother, used to live in a rented house but now they're homeless. They are among an estimated 1,200 homeless children in Washington, many of whom live in shelters.

Moving to the shelter meant going to a new school, and that was difficult at first. But the twins say they haven't had much trouble making friends in their new fourth-grade class.

"They don't really care if we live in a shelter," says Marquise. "They are just our friends."

Shelter rules say that friends can visit only on weekends. But the boys have made friends at the shelter, too.

With help from Community of Hope, their mother is looking for a job and a new home for the family. The twins hope she finds one soon—in a safe neighborhood.

"I hope we live in a low-crime area," Marquise says, looking hopefully at his mom.

Oh, and they'd like a yard so that they can play football again.

BY THE NUMBERS

1.3 million
Estimated number of homeless children in the United States

11,762
Homeless people in the Washington area

681
Homeless families in the District of Columbia

SOURCES: 2007 figures from National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness. ***(© 2008, The Washington Post)***

The Freddie Highmore Chronicles

By SCOTT MOORE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Freddie Highmore already has acted alongside some of the biggest stars in the movie business, including Johnny Depp, Robin Williams, Russell Crowe, Helena Bonham Carter, Dustin Hoffman ... and Freddie Highmore.

That last one was the most challenging.

Freddie plays twins Jared and Simon in "The Spiderwick Chronicles." The brothers look alike, but they handle things in different ways. And they have a lot to handle: Their parents' marriage is in trouble, and the boys have moved with their mother and older sister to an old, spooky house where they are confronted with violent, fantastical creatures.

"It was quite interesting," Freddie says of being cast as twins, "because genetically they are the same person. But they have grown apart as different changes have affected them and how they react to different situations, like the splitting of the family and the divorce. For me it was also important that Simon didn't get (overlooked) behind Jared ... who smashes things up and is quite the extrovert."

In real life, Freddie has a heavy London accent, but he successfully makes the boys sound as if they are from New England—and even a bit different from each other. A dialect coach would speak up whenever one twin sounded too much like the other.

Freddie Highmore in a scene from "The Spiderwick Chronicles."

Costuming completes the effect: Angry Jared wears jeans and lots of black and red; quiet Simon tends to wear green or brown.

How do they appear on screen at the same time? Special effects, stunt doubles and stand-ins.

"It was great to play the twins opposite myself. I didn't get along with the other guy (himself) too well," Freddie jokes. "There was a lot of friction on the set."

Freddie turned 16 last week. He looks younger but acts older. "I spend time with adults, and being with them you become more mature. ... Especially on a (movie) set, you can't mess around. ... It doesn't seem like a job, but it really is."

He enjoys the work, however. It has taken him to interesting places, including a memorable visit to Cambodia during the filming of "Two Brothers."

"We went off to deserted beaches and took a boat out for a day, caught fish and cooked on the beach. It's such a beautiful place. I'm not sure if I'll ever have an opportunity again to go to one of the only places on Earth where there are real tigers, and people really go around on elephants."

Meet Freddie Highmore

By SCOTT MOORE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

BIOGRAPHY
Born Feb. 14, 1992, in London. His father, Edward, is an actor (both had small roles in "Jack and the Beanstalk: The Real Story"). His mother, Sue Latimer, is a talent agent. Has a brother, Bertie, 13.

WHERE ELSE YOU'VE SEEN HIM
"August Rush," "Arthur and the Invisibles," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Finding Neverland." He also was the voice of Pantalaimon in "The Golden Compass."

FAVORITE PIZZA TOPPING
"Maybe ham and pineapple. Or Margherita or cheese and 'tomah-to.' "

ON HIS IPOD
"I like all sorts of music. Sarah (Bolger, who plays the sister in "Spiderwick") got me into Simon and Garfunkel."

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM
Arsenal, a North London soccer club. "I've always supported them since I was a kid. My family passed it down. I have season tickets, so I go to a game every week or so."

Freddie on Freddie

Freddie on future roles: "It would be fun to play a bad guy—a really nasty person, someone everyone hates. You wouldn't expect it to be me. You'd think: He's a sweet little kid."

Freddie on the differences between the "Spiderwick" books and the movie: "There's always difficulties making a book into a film—not everything will work. ... We tried to retain as much as possible—definitely the unseen world, all those creatures are almost taken directly from the books."

Freddie on being recognized: "If you don't stand there and say, 'Hey look at me' and point it out, no one notices it too much. Especially in London; it's always raining, and everyone is hiding under umbrellas and ... looking down, trying to avoid the next puddle." ***(© 2008, The Washington Post)***

Aussie bowerbirds seek to impress with flowers, dancing

By CLAIRE MILLER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Talk about trying to impress a girlfriend! Satin bowerbirds from Australia go overboard to win a mate.

First, the blue-black male birds build bowers, U-shaped twig "palaces" where the green female birds can stand and admire them.

But a well-made bower is just the start.

Next, the males make a pad of sticks in front of their bowers. Then they decorate their pads with feathers, fruit, flowers — even bits of plastic. Blue objects are special treasures to satin bowerbirds, but they think red is disgusting.

Male bowerbirds know that birds that build the best-looking bowers are more likely to attract females.

"The males want to have the flashiest decorations in front of their bowers," says Gerald Borgia, a University of Maryland professor who studies bowerbirds. "If a bird sees something he wants decorating a neighbor's bower, he tries to steal it. And he fights other males to keep them from stealing his decorations."

During the three-month courting season, the males spend a lot of time poking thin twigs into the sides of their bowers to improve their look. Then they fly off to find even more decorations.

While the males are away, the females start to cruise around. They check out the construction of the bowers and how well they are decorated. They return later to their favorite bowers to see how well the males can dance.

"These birds have very energetic displays," says Borgia. "They puff their feathers and rapidly flap their wings while running sideways in front of their bowers, first to the left and then to the right. During these displays they hold collected treasures in their beaks while facing the female. They also make loud calls and buzzing noises. The most successful males learn how to pick up signals from the females. Some females like noisy, boisterous dancers, while others go for calmer males."

The females don't let on which male they're going to choose. First they go off to build their nests. Then each female returns to the mate of her choice. The favorite males might get picked by 20 or more females. Some might not be chosen at all. Better luck next year!

Meanwhile, the females lay their eggs and then raise the chicks on their own.

Borgia and his students have been studying bowerbirds in Australia for 28 years. Every year they discover new surprises about the birds.

Jason Keagy, one of Borgia's students, spent three years giving intelligence tests to male bowerbirds.

"In one test," he says, "I put red objects under see-through containers in front of each bird's bower. Then I watched how quickly the birds figured out how to remove their containers and get rid of the red objects. I wanted to find out if the smartest guys got the most females. And guess what? They did!"

About bowerbirds

- There are 18 species of bowerbirds. They live in Australia and New Guinea.
- Spotted bowerbird males have been known to bring as many as 3,000 things to a single bower.
- Recently Maryland biologist Gerald Borgia's students learned that younger female bowerbirds are most impressed by fancy bowers. Older females choose the males that put on the best dancing show. To get the most mates, a male needs to be both a good builder and a great dancer.

If you would like to see some dancing bowerbirds, Borgia's Web site, www.life.umd.edu/biology/borgialab, has some videos. ***(© 2008, The Washington Post)***

THE WASHINGTON POST

A male bowerbird at Wollongong Botanic Garden in Australia decorates his bower (blue items are particularly treasured) to attract a mate.

Satin bowerbirds from Australia go overboard to win a mate. First, the blue-black male birds build bowers, U-shaped twig "palaces" for their green female admirers. But a well-made bower is just the start.

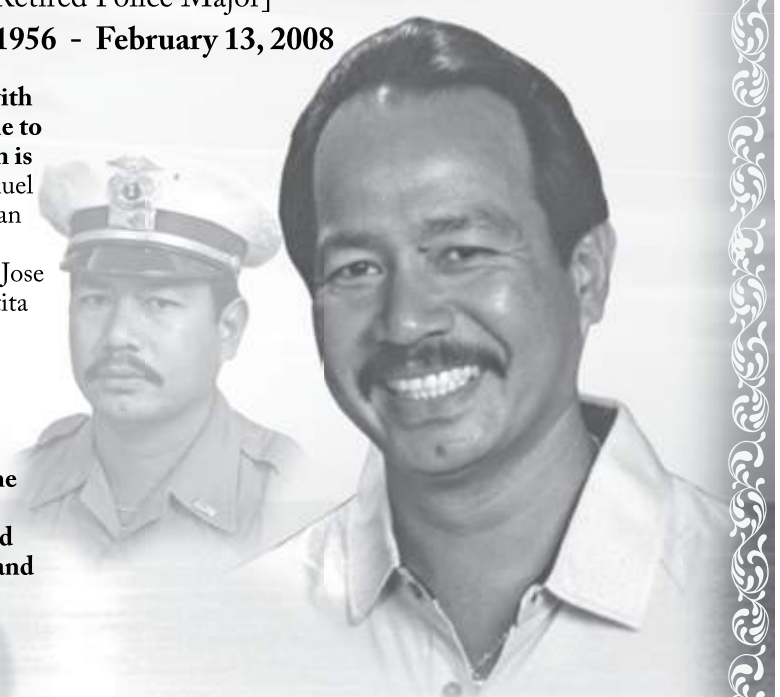
THE WASHINGTON POST

IN LOVING MEMORY

†JOAQUIN JONES CASTRO

fondly known as "Kindu" and "JJ Castro"
[CNMI Retired Police Major]
February 27, 1956 - February 13, 2008

On February 13, 2008, Joaquin was blessed with his last rites and shortly after, was called Home to Eternal Life by our Heavenly Father. Joaquin is predeceased by his Parents: Maria J. and Manuel M. Castro; **Sister:** Celing Jones; **Brother:** Juan Jones Castro; F**ather-in-law:** Pedro Songao Maratita; **Brothers-in-law:** Juan U. Maratita/ Jose U. Maratita/ and Mametto "Mamet" U. Maratita



Joaquin cherished the quality of life and time spent with his family and friends. He will be forever missed, but, his love, fond memories and his peaceful spirit will live on and remain in the hearts of his:

Wife: Elisa Ulloa Maratita-Castro;

Children and Grandchildren:
Deveyann C. & Jesse Pua (Dariann)
Lismarie C. & Jeffrey C. Sablan (Joaquin)
Jackie M. Castro

Brothers, Sisters, & Spouses: Margarita J. Castro & Jack Tmodrang; Joseph W. & Marilyn (Meng) P. Jones; Josepha & Ramon Kapileo; Manuel J. Castro; Nancy S. Castro; Celina C. & Antonio L. Kaipat; Juanet J. Castro & John S. Dela Cruz; Bonifacio (Ben) J. Castro; Bernadita C. & Pedro Dlg. Manalo; Daniel J. & Dorothy M. Castro; Rosita J. Castro; Benjamin J. & Vivian Q. Castro; and Eddie J. & Maria Ana (Rose) Omar Castro

Brothers/Sisters in-law: Edward U. & Rosa C. Maratita; Leonisa (Lennie) Flores Maratita; Melchor U. & Isabel S. Maratita; Juan U. & Tracy A. Maratita; Vicente U. & Delia S. Maratita; Gloria U. Maratita; George Q. Babauta; Beata (Vicky) M. & Frank R. Sablan; Delia M. & Ramon B. Camacho; Romana U. Maratita & Jesus S. Cabrera; Janet Maratita; Rosalinda Ulloa & Donald C. Camacho

He will also be missed by numerous Godchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:30 p.m. at the family's residence in Dandan, behind Joeten Dandan Supermarket.

On Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Pas Chapel (Cabrera Center) to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetary.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your thoughts and prayers. God Bless

FROM THE FAMILY

"Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light"

Matthew 11:28-30

RIDDLE CARD

1. When does a boat show affection?
2. Why do lazy boys have to go to school?
3. If a poor man found a dollar in every pocket of his pants, what would he probably have?
4. Why is a coward like a leaky faucet?

Answers: 1. When it hugs the shore. 2. Because the school won't come to them. 3. Somebody else's pants. 4. Because they both run.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

TIME
TIRE
TARE
CARE
CARD

PUNCH IN FOR PUZZLE FUN!

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example we changed TIME to CARD in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves:

1. GOLD to MINE
2. FIRE to BALL
3. WORM to BAIT
4. HALF to PINT
5. PASS to WORD

Answers:
1. GOLD, MOLD, MILD, MILE, MINE.
2. FIRE, FILE, BILE, BILL, BALL.
3. WORM, WARM, WART, WAIT, BAIT.
4. HALF, HALT, HILT, HINT, PINT.
5. PASS, PARS, WARS, WARD, WORD.

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SEE IF YOU CAN make this math expression correct by adding four plus signs between certain numbers:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7=100

Answers: 1 + 2 + 34 + 56 + 7 = 100 or 1 + 23 + 4 + 5 + 67 = 100.

A PASSWORD TO WORD POWER! Pictured below are two puzzle grids, each containing four words. Hints are given, and the words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. They come with nails.
2. Mexican favorite.
3. Coarse file.
4. Found in classrooms.

GRID A

P			
	A		
		S	
			S

GRID B

W			
	O		
		R	
			D

1. A stinging pest.
2. A layer of paint.
3. Golfers love them.
4. What cars may do.

Answers: 1. Paws-wasp. 2. Taco-coat. 3. Rasp-pars. 4. Kids-skid.

Careless breeding

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I saw a news report last week about some Chihuahua puppies that were all born without front limbs. While the solution to their dilemma —custom-made wheelie carts—was heart-warming, I wondered how three puppies from the same litter could all have the same problem? —Tara G., Daytona Beach, Fla.

DEAR TARA: Careless breeding was the likely cause of this unfortunate event—a breeder creating too many litters of Chihuahua pups without much knowledge or research into the parents' histories. Profit—a fast buck—was purely the motive in the actions that led up to these pups being born.

It's not known how common such an event is, but careless breeding can lead to generations of pups from the same sire/dame carrying genetic deformities. This is a danger in all purebred dogs, but careful, knowledgeable practices lead to healthy dogs with few negative incidences of genetic deformity or behavioral problems.

The best way to combat this issue is to educate yourself and others about the pitfalls of buying a particular breed "just because it's popular." Keep warning others about buying puppies from the flea market, or through classified ads. Remember that "this dog comes with papers" is a meaningless sales pitch—such papers would need to be certified by the American Kennel Club, and its standards are very high.

In fact, the AKC Web site—www.akc.org—can help you take the first step in learning about good and bad breeding practices, and can guide you, or anyone you know who is thinking of getting a dog -- on the best ways to select a purebred dog.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It was English novelist and essayist Virginia Woolf, one of the foremost modernist literary figures of the 20th century, who made the following sage observation: "For most of history, Anonymous was a woman."

■ Other than being celebrities, what do Woody Allen, Farrah Fawcett, Stanley Tucci, Glenn Close, Richard Attenborough and Kevin Spacey have in common? They're all pigs. In the Chinese zodiac, that is.

■ At 6 feet, 4 inches tall, Abraham Lincoln is the tallest president in the history of the United States.

■ In a study of 28 women, it was found that screaming has a therapeutic effect on the physiology of the body. After bouts of screaming, the test subjects showed slower heart rates, lower blood pressure and lower body temperature.

■ The Netherlands is well-known for picturesque photos of windmills, dikes and, of course, the ubiquitous tulips. The flowers have been an integral part of the culture of the country for hundreds of years. In fact, in the 17th century, it was possible to purchase a house with just a few tulip bulbs. Very special tulip bulbs, I would imagine.

■ The bread-slicing machine was invented by a jeweler, not an engineer.

■ Psychiatrists who study such things claim that many deep thinkers share the habit of talking to themselves. You might want to mention that next time you get odd looks from strangers for muttering under your breath.

■ Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth II reportedly enjoys putting together huge jigsaw puzzles.

■ Scientists say that Niagara Falls will only last another 2,400 years.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Lack of money is no obstacle. Lack of an idea is an obstacle." —Ken Hakuta

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MAGIC MAZE ● NEEDLEWORK

B V T R P S G N L J H P E C A
Y W V T E N E N R P A N L K G
I G E W I C B H I T Z X W A N
K N I T T I N G C T B U S P I
R N T P O M L H U T L R J P N
G A I G E D W B A R I I A L R
T E M B R O I D E R Y T U I A
Y E X Y R T S E P A T N S Q D
W U C K R O W K C A L B N U T
S Q P U O N L K C R O C H E T
J H G F L D C K R O W T U C P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Applique	Cutwork	Patchwork	Stitches
Blackwork	Embroidery	Penny rug	Tapestry
Braid	Knitting	Quilting	Tatting
Crochet	Lucet	Sewing	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		30
x		÷		x	
	–		x		21
+		x		+	
	x		–		21
22		20		24	

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 8 9

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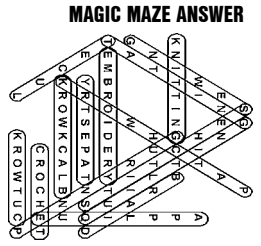
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	24		20		22
21	9	–	5	x	6
	+		x		+
21	3	x	1	–	8
	x		÷		x
30	5	x	4	+	2

Thumbs up for "Animalia"!

There's a brand-new show on PBS KIDS GO! targeted to the 6- to 9-year-olds in your home. While you might recognize its title from the popular picture book "ANIMALIA," the TV series is a lively breed of its own. After viewing the first few episodes, I couldn't help but wonder what went on behind the scenes when the producers transformed a richly illustrated ABC book into a TV series filled with magical adventures and stories where creatures rule.

I did a little sleuthing on my own and learned from Bruce Johnson, CEO of PorchLight Entertainment and one of the series' executive producers, that they took the funniest, most whimsical-looking characters from the book and gave them names, personalities and "voices" to match—from Allegra Alligator to zebras Zed and Zee.

After inventing a world of talking animals with their own foods and jobs, they needed to develop a reason for two kids to travel to Animalia. So, they created a large orb called "The Core," which enables animals to speak, write, listen and think. The Core was placed in the middle of Animalia's library, but when the kids arrive to this fantasy world, they find that it is faltering. With Animalia itself in jeopardy, the stage is set for the adventures to begin.

Like the creators of the TV series, imagine a new twist to a favorite picture book or story your family enjoys, then "produce" it in a new medium, low-tech style with finger puppets! Enjoy your own "thumbs up" puppet production as characters and scenery carry an original plot across your tabletop stage.

For a set of 10 finger puppets, you'll need:

■ 1 pair of plain-colored cotton garden gloves
■ Fabric paints in squeeze bottles
■ Glue and scissors
■ Craft foam pieces
■ Odds and ends, such as feathers, tiny buttons, googly eyes, etc.

Cut off the 10 glove fingers to use each one as a separate puppet. Each one should be about 2 to 3 inches in length to fit your fingers. Tuck under the cut edges a quarter inch, and glue.

Make a face or symbol, such as sunshine or a tree, at the top of each finger puppet using paint and glued-on craft supplies.

Let dry.

Let the show begin!

Visit www.pbskidsgo.org/animalia for an Activity Guide tied to Animalia's underlying lessons about language communication skills.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

'Idol' cuts 4 but keeps Irish crooner

NEW YORK (AP)—Carly Smithson progressed on "American Idol" Thursday amid controversy over her professional past. Smithson, 24, has made headlines for having a pre-"Idol" career: The Irish crooner recorded a debut album, 2001's "Ultimate High," for MCA Records. It flopped—after the label spent more than $2 million trying to sell it.

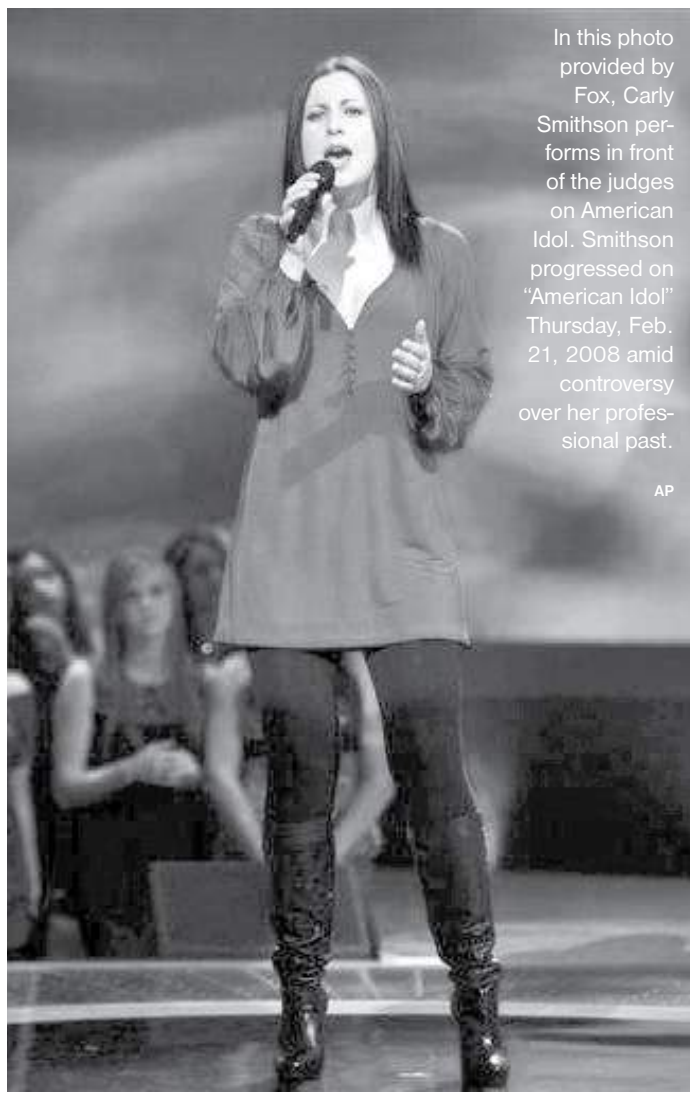
The show's gimmick has always been to pluck talented young hopefuls from obscurity and make them into recording artists.

Besides Smithson, several of this year's semifinalists are not exactly rookies in the world of music. Kristy Lee Cook once had a deal with Arista Nashville, and rocker Robbie Carrico was part of the pop group Boyz N Girlz United.

"If they hadn't already tried to make a name for themselves, then they don't deserve to be in (the) competition," said judge Paula Abdul, defending the contestants' real-world experience.

Abdul added that Kelly Clarkson had pursued a recording career before her "Idol" win.

Now for the losers: Garrett Haley, Amy Davis, Joanne Borgella and Colton Berry were eliminated by viewers getting their first chance to vote in the top-rated talent contest's seventh season.



In this photo provided by Fox, Carly Smithson performs in front of the judges on American Idol. Smithson progressed on "American Idol" Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008 amid controversy over her professional past.

AP

Haley, who sang "Breaking Up is Hard to Do," was the first one booted. Simon Cowell said Tuesday that the Elida, Ohio, resident looked like he had been locked in his bedroom for a month and needed some fresh air.

"I haven't gone tanning, so I'm being myself," the 17-year-old said before exiting the stage.

Abdul told the telegenic Davis, 25, from Lowell, Ind., that she needed more experience. "You're a beautiful, talented girl," she reassured.

Borgella, a 25-year-old plus-size model from Hoboken, N.J., failed to impress Cowell with her somewhat shrill rendition of "I Say a Little Prayer."

"It was a horrible song choice, and it wasn't a great performance," the acerbic judge said.

"I know I sing better than that," responded Borgella.

Cowell was especially harsh toward the 18-year-old Berry: "I would say get a good job, and enjoy singing. Because I don't think you'll make a successful career out of it."

Berry, from Staunton, Va., took the bad news in stride and closed the show with a spirited cover of "Suspicious Minds."

Thursday's show also featured a presentation of the music video for Abdul's new single, "Dance Like There's No Tomorrow." It drew a warm reception from the studio audience - and a smile and kiss on the cheek from Cowell.

"American Idol," now running three times a week, will return to a twice-weekly schedule March 11 for the elimination of the final dozen. The decision-making finale will be held in May.

Badu jokes about her male relationships

NEW YORK (AP)—Erykah Badu doesn't want you to believe the gossip rags when it comes to her friends - but when it comes to the singer herself, that's another story.

"Don't believe the tabloids," Badu told an audience as she performed Tuesday night for VH1 Soul.

But she said: "It is true what they say about me and men—(I) make them wear crocheted pants and shin guards!" She broke out into laughter, then added: "But they souljas, though."

Badu has a child with eccentric dresser Andre 3000 from OutKast, and had a long relationship with another rapper, Common, who is still laughed at for wearing crocheted pants when they were dating.

Badu, 36, was serious though as she defended the honor of her friend, R&B singer Eric Benet, who took a beating in the media when ex-wife Halle Berry accused him of cheating on her. "He's a very responsible person," she told the crowd.

Restraining order for Spears pal extended

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge on Thursday extended a restraining order against Britney Spears' pal Sam Lutfi by nearly a month.

U.S. District Court Judge Philip Gutierrez ordered a March 17 hearing on the matter, and extended the restraining order until then. The action comes on the same day Lutfi was served with the restraining order issued earlier this month.

In court papers, Jeffrey Wexler, an attorney for her father, James Spears, wrote that "after three weeks of apparently evading service," Lutfi was served at 11 a.m. outside his Los Angeles apartment.

The order, which requires Lutfi to stay 250 yards away from Spears and her home, was set to expire Friday.

Wexler had asked for the order to be extended until the court could schedule a hearing on it.

On Feb. 7, Spears' mother, Lynne, requested the temporary restraining order against the troubled singer's frequent companion and sometime manager. She claimed Lutfi had held Spears hostage in her own home, drugged her and took over her finances.

Timberlake to star in baseball movie

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)—The new star of the Corpus Christi Hooks minor league baseball team wants some playing tips. Justin Timberlake will portray fictional Hooks player Carlton Garrett in the upcoming movie "The Open Road." The 27-year-old pop star tried to meet with players of the Houston Astros' Double-A team in Austin recently, but schedules didn't align.

"Justin wants to portray what it's like playing for the Hooks, playing for an Astros minor league team and playing at Whataburger Field," Hooks President J.J. Gottsch said.

"The Open Road" is the story of a young man trying to reconnect with his father—a legendary athlete played by Jeff Bridges—as he struggles to get home to his ailing mother. Mary Steenburgen and Kate Mara are also in the film.

AP

Justin Timberlake is photographed during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, in this Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007 file photo.

Writer-director Michael Meredith, son of former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Don Meredith and a former University of Texas student, drew on his Texas ties for the concept, Gottsch said.

While most of the real Hooks are preparing for spring training, Gottsch remained hopeful that a handful of players may be able to consult with Timberlake—No. 31 in the movie—about his role.

Shooting on the movie began Tuesday in Hammond, La.

Last year, Timberlake voiced a character in the Mike Myers opus "Shrek the Third." His screen credits also include "Alpha Dog" and "Black Snake Moan."

Twins' candlelight birthday celebration gets snuffed out

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Our granddaughter and her twin brother are turning 13. My husband and I wanted to celebrate this milestone birthday with a candlelight spaghetti dinner at our house that includes their boyfriend/girlfriend.

We planned to get out the china and silver and eat in the formal dining room. Our daughter was on board, and the kids were excited.

Our daughter's former in-laws, however, threw a fit about the children being "too young to date."

Obviously, we'll honor our ex-son-in-law's wishes, but we're terribly disappointed, as are the kids. Since when is dinner at home with your grandparents and your boyfriend and girlfriend considered a date? Or are we out of touch with reality?

CANCELED IN RED OAK, TEXAS

DEAR CANCELED: The deal-killer may have been the "candlelight" aspect of the dinner, because in some people's minds candlelight connotes "romance." I can't blame your ex-son-in-law and his parents for wanting to keep the twins cocooned in their concept of childhood for as long as they can, but it's a losing battle.

If memory serves me, seventh grade (12 or 13) is when boys and girls begin noticing each other—if not before—and while they are too young to "date," I hardly consider dinner at the grandparents as dating. Although it may not have been the custom in your son-in-law's family, age 13 or 14 is when many young people begin going to supervised parties/dances, although they do it in groups.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a lovely woman, "Bethany," for the past seven months. I'm 30 and Bethany is 29. She's a teacher, and I work in health care. We met online, then talked on the phone and eventually decided to meet.

Abby, I was attracted to her from the moment I saw her. Over these past months I have bonded with Bethany's family and have fallen in love with her. I would like nothing more than to make her my wife. I haven't asked her yet, although we have joked about it.

Two nights ago we went to dinner, and the whole time something felt "off" to me. When we returned to Bethany's place, she informed me out of the blue that she would like to take a break from "us." She said she feels rushed into a new relationship without having closure from her previous one, which lasted six years and was difficult.

Before I became too upset, I got up off the couch and left. We haven't talked since, as I want to give her the "space" she has requested. I love Bethany, and I'm afraid I am going to lose her. How long should I go without making contact with her?

TROUBLED IN JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

DEAR TROUBLED: Frankly, the person to reach out should be Bethany, but give her six weeks. If you haven't heard from her by then, when you do call, don't be surprised to hear that she and her former boyfriend have reconciled. When a woman says there was "no closure," it usually means she still has feelings for the person.

It is also possible that she finds "difficult" relationships more exciting than ones without drama. And if that's the case, then unless you, too, are looking for pain, you'll move on. You have my sympathy.

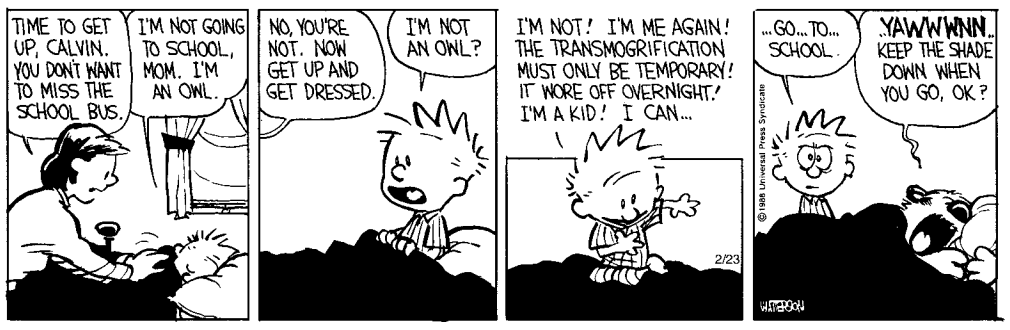
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


TIME TO GET UP, CALVIN. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE SCHOOL BUS.
I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL, MOM. I'M AN OWL.
NO, YOU'RE NOT. NOW GET UP AND GET DRESSED.
I'M NOT AN OWL?
I'M NOT! I'M ME AGAIN! THE TRANSMOGRIFICATION MUST ONLY BE TEMPORARY! IT WORE OFF OVERNIGHT! I'M A KID! I CAN...
2/23
...GO...TO... SCHOOL.
YAWWWNN. KEEP THE SHADE DOWN WHEN YOU GO, OK?
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WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THE BRAVE CAT VENTURES FORTH INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY!
DID YOU COME TO HELP ME SORT MY SOCKS?
AAAAAND BACK TO CHARTED TERRITORY
JIM DAVIS 2-23
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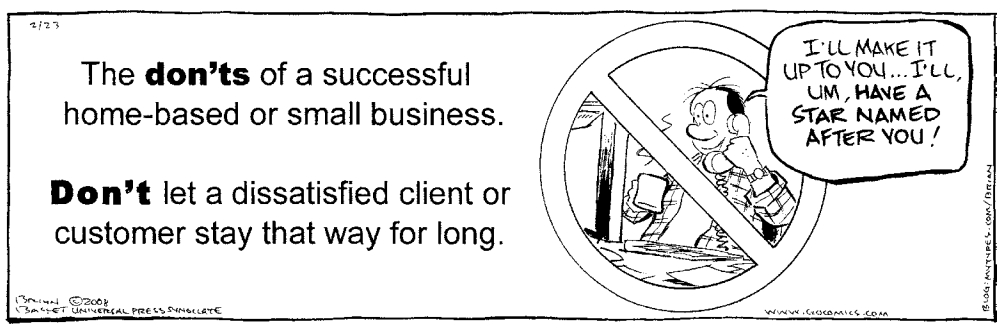
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


2/23
The don'ts of a successful home-based or small business.
Don't let a dissatisfied client or customer stay that way for long.
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU... I'LL, UM, HAVE A STAR NAMED AFTER YOU!
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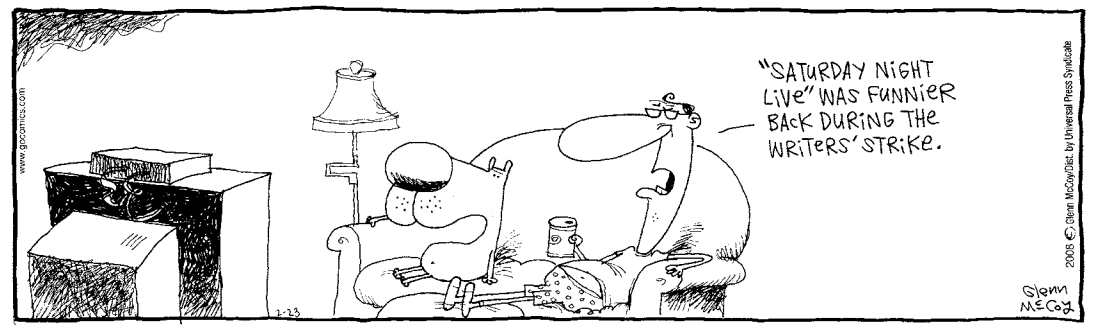
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


"SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE" WAS FUNNIER BACK DURING THE WRITERS' STRIKE.
www.gocomics.com
2-23
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GLENN MCCOY

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

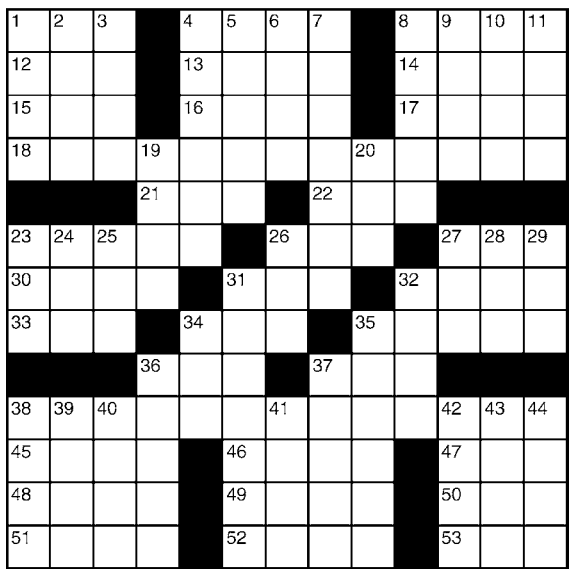
ACROSS
1 Idolaters' emotion
4 Puncturing tools
8 Teensy bit
12 Snitch
13 Pace
14 "Clue" weapon
15 Wayfarer's refuge
16 Frost
17 Words of denial
18 Intensely
21 Shelter
22 Formerly called
23 Wanted-poster datum
26 Hoosegow
27 Realtor's offering
30 Frilly, in a way
31 Felon's flight
32 Swampland
33 Caustic solution
34 Prohibit
35 Swindle
36 For example
37 "Eureka!"
38 Close combat
45 27-Across measure
46 Santa's sackful
47 Part of E.V.O.O.
48 Quarter, e.g.
49 Criterion
50 Eventual aves
51 Entanglement
52 Being, to Brutus
53 Barbie's companion

DOWN
1 Met melody
2 Desire
3 Sicilian spouter
4 Concurs
5 Relinquish
6 Rickey flavor
7 Breastbone
8 Golfer Palmer, to fans
9 Whistle sound
10 Mostly Mideastern cartel
11 Netting
19 TV chef Bobby
20 "— O' My Heart"
23 The whole enchilada
24 Deposit
25 "Rocks"
26 One may hold the mayo
27 Smith or Claiborne
28 Mined-over matter
29 X rating?
31 It's kid stuff
32 Castle protection
34 Scrooge's cry
35 Pure
36 Bloodhound's clue
37 Huge pit
38 Get ready to travel
39 PC picture
40 Small combo
41 "Easy — it"
42 Snatched
43 Not pre-recorded
44 Vivacity

Solution time: 27 mins.

T	A	P	■	P	A	W	■	P	R	I	N	T
I	C	E	■	O	R	O	■	A	O	R	T	A
B	I	N	■	S	A	M	M	Y	C	A	H	N
I	N	N	■	T	R	E	E	S	■	■	■	■
A	G	E	S	■	A	N	T	■	C	I	N	E
■	■	■	A	P	T	■	S	C	H	O	O	L
S	A	U	T	E	■	■	■	H	A	N	D	Y
E	R	S	A	T	Z	■	H	I	M	■	■	■
A	M	E	N	■	I	D	O	■	P	I	E	D
■	■	■	■	A	N	I	T	A	■	V	E	E
J	A	M	E	S	C	A	A	N	■	O	R	E
A	W	A	S	H	■	N	I	T	■	R	I	D
B	E	T	S	Y	■	A	R	E	■	Y	E	S

Yesterday's answer 2-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kristin Davis, 43; Patricia Richardson, 57; John Sandford, 64; Johnny Winter, 64

Happy Birthday: You have to make your move, go after what you want or change the way you have been doing things. Stop taking on what isn't benefiting you and put yourself first for a change. Aggressive, powerful and determined action will bring results and change your life. Your numbers are 4, 9, 21, 25, 30, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Taking on too much will lead to overreacting and problems in your personal and professional position. Gauge your time and don't offer something you can't fulfill. Love is in the stars if you are receptive to the help being offered. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Complement someone else by sharing your thoughts and ideas and something valuable will come out of it. Your dedication will be impressive and will win favors but don't expect someone you love to support your current challenges. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Everything you touch will be successful today and the people you meet will enhance your life. Be a participant in as many different activities as possible. The sky's the limit. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick close to home where you know you will get the support and the comfort you need. Put time and effort into fixing up the place. The end result will be satisfaction and the possibility of entertaining. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): This is the perfect day to take care of love issues. You can solidify a partnership, start something new or take pleasure in the company you engage in today. Offer your talents and you will get requests that interest you. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let your serious side stand in the way of having some fun. Make arrangements to socialize with people or groups that interest you. You can open up the possibility to self-improvement by updating your look. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take action, stop being lazy and do your part and you will make headway. Love will be easy to come by and will offer you options you haven't had in the past. If you are already involved, now is the perfect time to make some demands but do so with your Libra charm. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be tempted to do things that have no bearing on achieving your goals. If you work toward reforming conditions you are facing or help others find solutions, you will have offers for partnerships that will enhance your future. What you do for others will be rewarded. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't give in to emotional manipulation. You may prefer to evade issues but if you do, you will not stand a chance. Stand up for your rights even if it means moving on. A passionate encounter is apparent. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can hide behind your austere façade and no one will have the slightest idea what you are about to do. This will allow you to alter the situation around you without disrupting the applecart. If you can be discreet, the pendulum will swing and you will benefit. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You are the one everybody is watching. Your ideas will set trends among your friends and put you in a position to wheel and deal. Act fast and proceed without fear. A commitment can be made. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get a grip on matters before you let your emotions surface, causing you grief. Back off rather than get into a heated discussion with someone. Bide your time and keep your personal life and intentions a secret for the time being. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, intuitive, a dreamer, an educator and an inventor. You look for the unusual and you strive to fix whatever needs adjustments.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		5			
	5						7	
	3		7	6	8		9	
9		7				1		8
		5				9		
6		8				5		2
	6		1	9	4		8	
	9						2	
			3		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	9	7	6	2	1	5	8
8	5	2	9	3	1	6	7	4
6	7	1	5	8	4	2	3	9
9	6	3	4	2	8	7	1	5
1	2	4	3	7	5	8	9	6
7	8	5	1	9	6	4	2	3
5	9	8	2	4	7	3	6	1
2	1	6	8	5	3	9	4	7
3	4	7	6	1	9	5	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOTEL DOORMEN **Solution: 5 letters**

P	F	E	N	T	H	U	S	I	A	S	T	I	C	T
T	R	O	P	P	U	S	S	C	O	N	D	U	C	T
W	I	O	A	L	E	R	E	T	R	O	P	A	E	N
G	E	E	F	C	O	N	D	E	S	K	R	L	S	A
N	N	L	C	E	C	R	T	E	R	E	A	D	Y	D
I	D	A	C	I	S	O	T	R	T	V	U	L	M	N
K	L	A	N	O	V	S	M	N	A	I	O	G	B	E
R	Y	D	E	S	M	R	I	P	O	N	V	E	O	T
A	S	T	N	L	W	E	E	O	A	C	C	N	L	T
P	A	S	S	A	G	E	F	S	N	N	C	E	I	A
G	L	I	S	T	T	U	R	I	M	A	Y	R	C	S
R	U	S	H	E	R	S	A	S	R	I	L	G	H	S
E	T	B	C	I	F	F	A	R	T	S	L	Y	E	I
E	E	S	C	O	R	T	Y	B	D	Y	T	E	C	S
T	N	A	S	A	E	L	P	R	E	P	E	E	K	T

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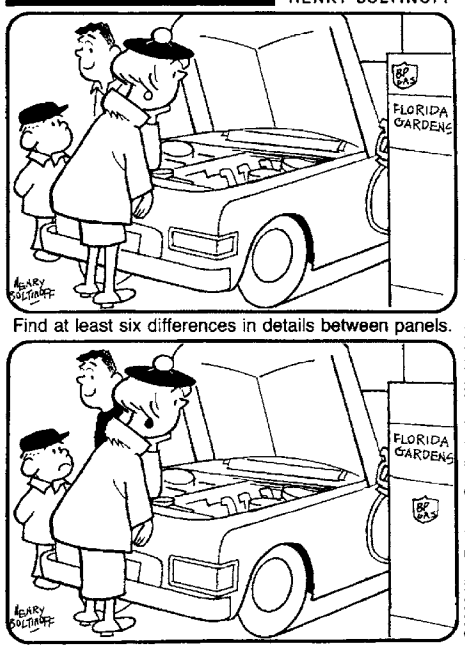
Accompany, Answers, Assist, Attendant, Carry, Check, Conduct, Control, Desk, Energy, Enthusiastic, Entrance, Escort, First, Friendly, Gate, Greet, Guard, Guests, Interact, Invite, Keeper, Lead, List, Parking, Passage, Pleasant, Porter, Professional, Ready, Salute, Service, Smile, Stand, Support, Symbolic, Traffic, Ushers, Valet, Welcome

Yesterday's Answer: Healing

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mechanic's shirt is different. 2. Boy is frowning. 3. Woman's earring is different. 4. Sign on gas pump has moved. 5. Headlight is bigger. 6. Woman's skirt is longer.

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Wishing Well®

2	6	2	6	3	6	3	4	5	6	4	8	2
V	A	I	N	F	E	U	P	H	W	O	J	C
7	3	5	6	7	6	4	6	7	6	7	5	2
Y	N	I	F	O	R	I	I	U	E	R	G	T
6	7	8	7	6	2	7	8	3	5	3	7	8
N	E	O	A	D	O	P	Y	T	H	I	R	F
7	5	3	2	4	2	3	8	4	8	5	3	2
E	E	M	R	S	Y	E	R	E	O	S	S	I
3	4	2	7	8	4	5	7	5	3	2	5	3
A	D	S	W	M	F	T	A	E	H	N	S	E
4	7	4	3	2	7	5	2	7	5	4	5	3
O	R	R	A	E	D	T	A	S	E	V	E	D
2	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	5	8	4
R	I	H	C	U	T	M	O	O	R	M	R	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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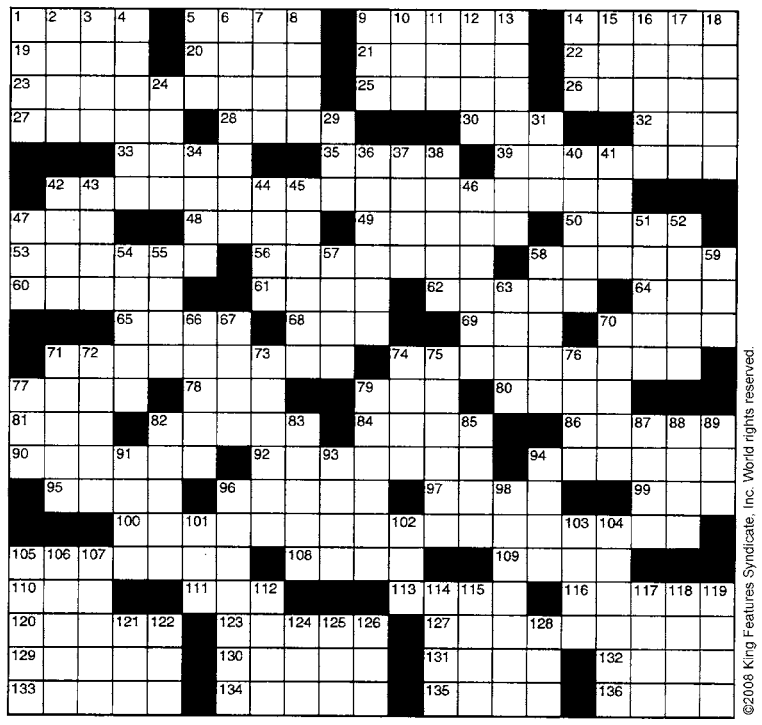
Super Crossword

I APPEAL

ACROSS
1 Commedia dell'—
5 One of the Mavericks
9 Seraglio
14 Telescope view
19 Clark's co-worker
20 "An apple — ..."
21 Catherine of "Home Alone"
22 Mindful
23 Start of a remark by John Yeck
25 — button
26 Neighbor of Nigeria
27 Confused
28 Artist Mondrian
30 Apprehend
32 Winter hazard
33 Lincoln or Zumwalt
35 Swerve
39 Slavic soup
42 Part 2 of remark
47 Ring stat
48 Pull the Trigger?
49 — -nez
50 Western lake
53 Fit for farming
56 Patois
58 Rag man?
60 — lily
61 Raison d'—
62 Big hit?
64 Creepy Christopher
65 Word on a fuse
68 Suffix with racket
69 Farm feature
70 Spice-rack item
71 Part 3 of remark
74 Part 4 of remark
77 Skin problem
78 Monte Rosa, for one
79 Dion's "Runaround" girl
80 Mitchell homestead
81 Glowing
82 Rule
84 "— Angel" ('60 smash)
86 Persona
90 Publishing magnate
92 Diva Renata
94 Author's afterthought
95 Asta's mistress
96 With 91 Down, fiber source
97 Urchins
99 Fuss and feathers
100 Part 5 of remark
105 Patron
108 Chore
109 "The Longest Day" author
110 Baby rat
111 Lady of the lea
113 Eastern discipline
116 Furious
120 Part owner?
123 Tower material?
127 End of remark
129 Tantrum
130 Johnson of "Brief Encounter"
131 Sometimes it's sweet
132 Stylish
133 Gold bug?
134 Talent
135 Couturier Cassini
136 Diner fare

DOWN
1 See 87 Down
2 Carrot or parsnip
3 Canterbury cans
4 Value
5 Humbug lead-in
6 Fatty
7 Punjabi princess
8 Anklebiter
9 Behave like a bunny
10 "Gotcha!"
11 Sought office
12 "— go bragh!"
13 A la King?
14 Bandleader Calloway
15 Be in debt
16 Hyper
17 Fromm or Segal
18 Doctrine
24 Biggest part of a fish?
29 Recipe abbr.
31 Reggae's Marley
34 Female zebra
36 German astronomer
37 New York county
38 Tow truck feature
40 Hearsay
41 TV's "One — Beyond"
42 Gumbo veggie
43 Stable youngster
44 Aspect
45 Pulls together
46 They're very well-armed
47 Tic- — -toe
51 Islamic deity
52 Muralist Rivera
54 Point the finger at
55 Revere's signal
57 Bailiwick
58 Elfman of "Dharma & Greg"
59 Born
63 Proper
66 Wilder works
67 Wd. segment
70 Wise guy
71 Descendant
72 Prelim
73 Lack of feeling
74 Feed a fire
75 Use another blue pencil?
76 Faucet problem
77 Landon or Kjellin
79 Position
82 Jennifer of "Flashdance"
83 Most minute
85 "The Secret of —" ('82 film)
87 With 1 Down, "Sweet Liberty" director
88 Shiva and Ganesha
89 Conceit
91 See 96 Across
93 — California
94 Discern
96 "Message to Michael" singer
98 Bible feature
101 Affliction
102 Overhead item?
103 Couple
104 Add nutrients
105 Tic
106 Designer Emilio
107 Made a choice
112 Get — (retaliate)
114 Bismarck or Kruger
115 Purpose
117 Turkish title
118 "— can't be!"
119 Impress
121 — roll
122 Legal matter
124 Slangy suffix
125 Rocker Ocasek
126 Babble
128 Med. test



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: What 1980 film featured a mechanical bull?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Ascension Island located?
3. ANATOMY: What divides the outer and middle ear in humans?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does an arctophile collect?
5. TELEVISION: What was the name of the DJ character in "Northern Exposure"?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many teeth does a dog have?
7. HISTORY: What 19th-century English statesman penned a novel titled "Vivian Gray"?
8. GAMES: What is the board-game version of the outdoor game known as "Capture the Flag"?
9. SCIENCE: Where would you most likely find a Bunsen burner?
10. LANGUAGE: What does the "hieroglyphic" mean in the original Greek?

Answers

1. "Urban Cowboy"
2. South Atlantic Ocean
3. The eardrum
4. Teddy bears
5. Chris Stevens
6. 42
7. Benjamin Disraeli
8. Stratego
9. Chemistry lab
10. Sacred carving

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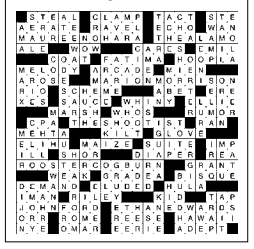
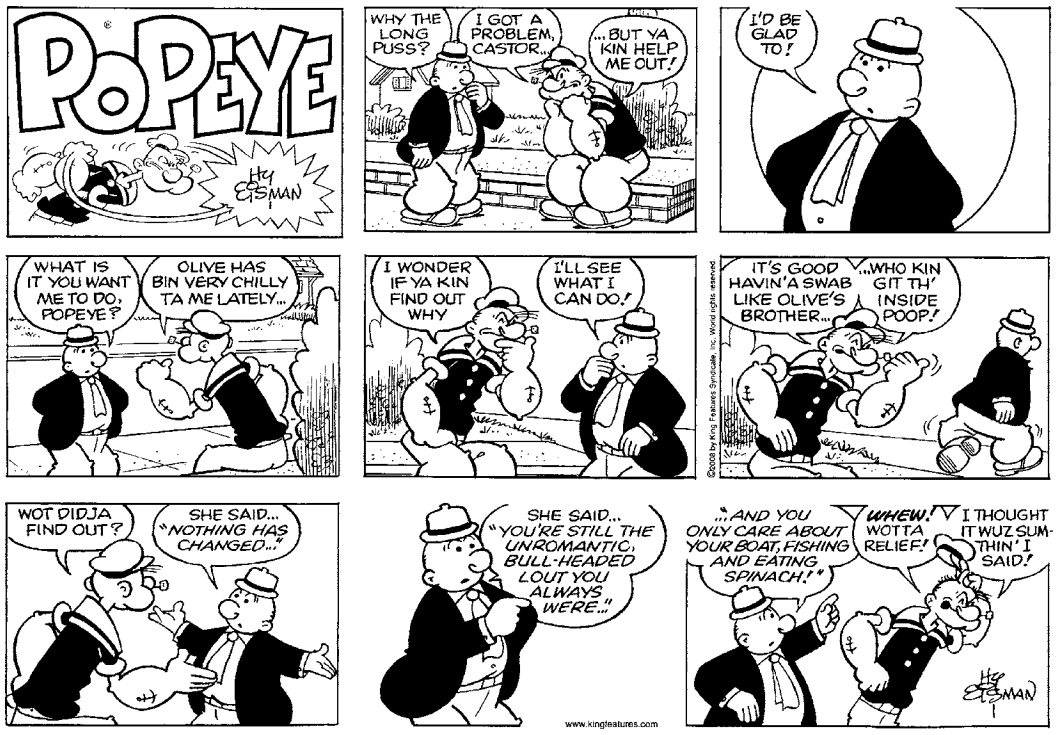
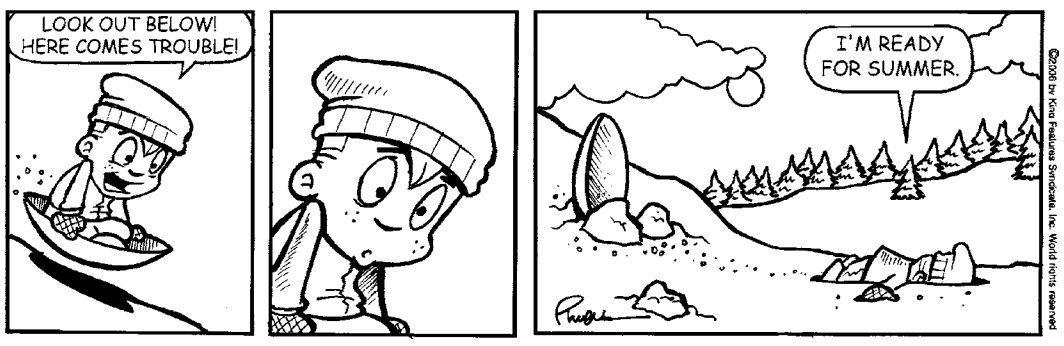
Saturday's Answers




POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
WHY THE LONG PUSS?
I GOT A PROBLEM, CASTOR...
...BUT YA KIN HELP ME OUT!
I'D BE GLAD TO!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO, POPEYE?
OLIVE HAS BIN VERY CHILLY TA ME LATELY...
I WONDER IF YA KIN FIND OUT WHY
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!
IT'S GOOD HAVIN'A SWAB LIKE OLIVE'S BROTHER...
...WHO KIN GIT TH' INSIDE POOP!
WOT DIDJA FIND OUT?
SHE SAID... "NOTHING HAS CHANGED..."
SHE SAID... "YOU'RE STILL THE UNROMANTIC, BULL-HEADED LOUT YOU ALWAYS WERE..."
...AND YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT YOUR BOAT, FISHING AND EATING SPINACH!"
WHEW! WOTTA RELIEF!
I THOUGHT IT WUZ SUMTHIN' I SAID!
www.kingfeatures.com

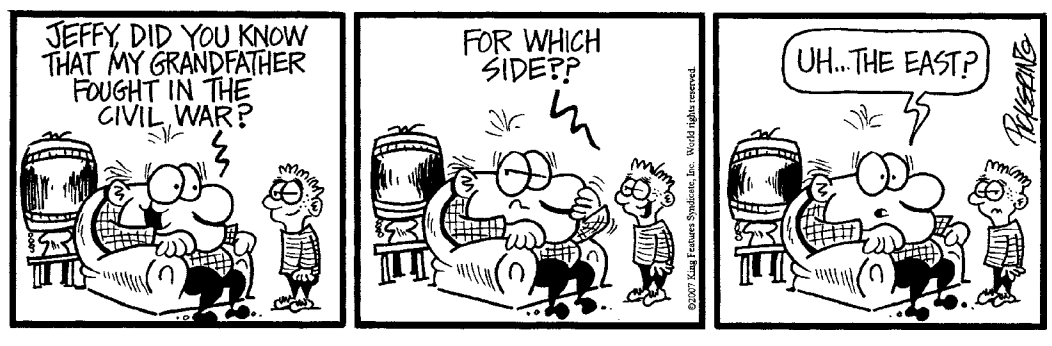
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

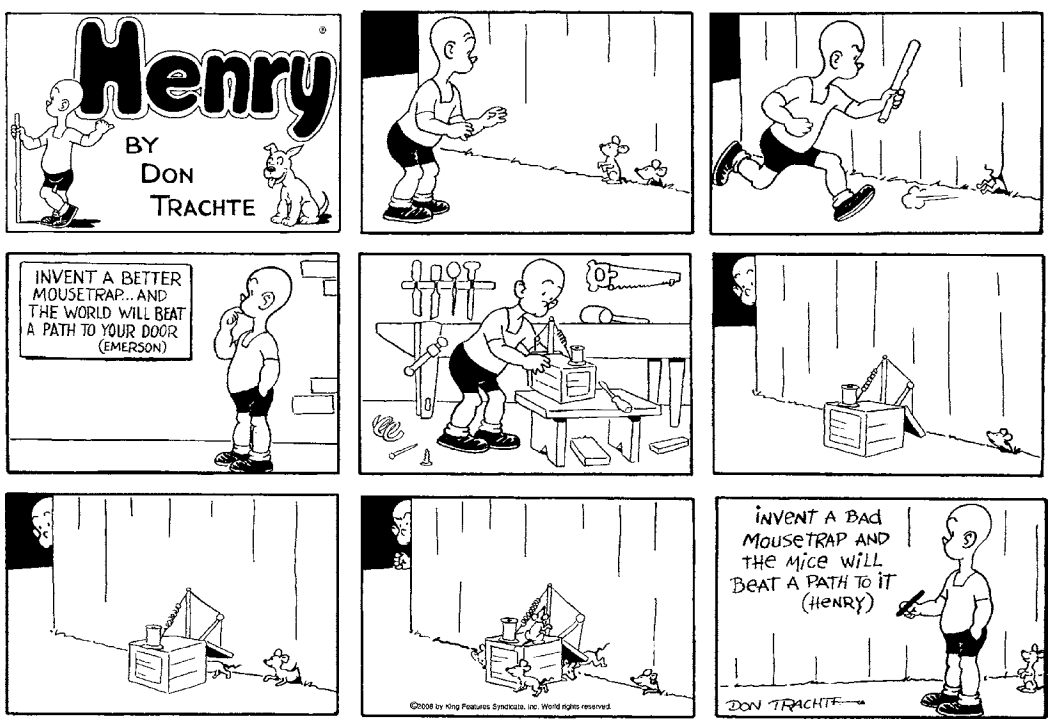


The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL
LOOK, MARK, ISN'T THAT AN OSPREY?
YES, IT'S OFTEN CALLED A FISH HAWK!
OSPREYS 3 YEARS OR OLDER USUALLY MATE FOR LIFE AND WILL RETURN TO THE SAME NEST EACH YEAR!
OSPREYS INHABIT NEARLY EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, BUT NOWHERE AS ABUNDANTLY AS IN THE BEAUTIFUL CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA!
OSPREYS ARE VERY TOLERANT OF HUMANS AND WILL FISH AND NEST CLOSE TO POPULATED COMMUNITIES, OFTEN LINING THEIR NESTS WITH A VARIETY OF DISCARDED MANMADE MATERIALS INCLUDING PLASTIC ROPE AND FISHING LINE, SOME OF WHICH PROVE TO BE DEADLY
MANY BIRDS BECOME ENTANGLED IN FISHING LINE OR IMPALED WITH HOOKS AND DIE OF STARVATION
THE NESTING POPULATION IS THE LARGEST KNOWN CONCENTRATION IN THE WORLD, NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY 3,600 BREEDING PAIRS, AND BEGINNING IN MARCH THEY WILL BE RETURNING TO START THEIR FAMILIES!
JACK ELROD
YOU CAN REDUCE INJURIES OR DEATH TO OSPREYS AND OTHER WILDLIFE WHEREVER YOU ARE FISHING BY SAFELY DISPOSING OF DISCARDED HOOKS AND LINES!


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
INVENT A BETTER MOUSETRAP.. AND THE WORLD WILL BEAT A PATH TO YOUR DOOR (EMERSON)
INVENT A BAD MOUSETRAP AND THE MICE WILL BEAT A PATH TO IT (HENRY)
DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Apartment for Rent in Aslito. Fully furnished, 24 hrs water. Safe location. Call 256-3864/287-7769

FOR SALE - COMMERCIAL

Bud's Bar For Sell. $20,000 or best offer. You must see to appreciate. #898-4866/233-1113

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR (ST 7355)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food & workmen's compensation. Contact: Xinlong Corporation dba El's Restaurant @888-4025.

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1 COOK (ST 7356)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee self arranged housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation insurance is employee provided & medical expenses is reimbursable. Contact: Yolanda O. Alfante dba Kulit's Ent., @235-1105.

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1 MASON (ST 7357)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workmen's compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 CARPENTER (ST 7358)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workmen's compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

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1 JANITOR (ST 7359)
Salary:$3.55-$3.70/hour. Benefits: Medical/workmen's compensation; free transportation to & from jobsite at employers designated pick-up points. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7360)
Salary:$4.00-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: Rufo T. Mafnas dba Rufo T. Mafnas, CPA @233-7836/233-1040.

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1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (ST 7361)
Salary:$3.55-$5.00/hour. Benefits: $325.00/monthly housing; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Saipan Community School @234-6687.

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1 MAINTENANCE/BLDG. REPAIRER (ST 7362)
Salary:$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Gualo Rai Court Apartment, Inc. @234-6552.

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1 MERCHANDISE (QUALITY CONTROL) DISTRIBUTOR (ST 7363)
Salary:$3.85/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Carmen Safeway Ent., Inc. dba Carmen Safeway Supermarket, Baby News, C-Mart Floral Lane Pacifica Funeral Services @234-7313.

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1 MAINTENANCE REPAIR BLDG. (ST 7364)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: ILC Corporation dba Ladera Int'l School of Saipan @288-2006.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7365)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: ILC Corporation dba Ladera Int'l School of Saipan @288-2006.

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1 CASHIER (ST 7366)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: P&S Inc. dba 888 Poker, LA Poker @233-3228.

1 POKER ATTENDANT (ST 7367)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: P&S Inc. dba 888 Poker, LA Poker @233-3228.

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2 TOUR COORDINATOR (ST 7368)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Star 1 Corporation dba Star Tour & Star ATV Tracking @483-5252.

TRAVEL AGENT (ST 7369)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Land Star Corporation dba Land Star Tour Agency @233-2452.

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1 TOUR GUIDE (ST 7370)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Korea Tourism, Inc. dba Koreana Tours Bureau @233-3004.

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2 HAND PACKAGER (ST 7371)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workmen's compensation. Contact: United International Corporation @235-6888/7888.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7372)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workmen's compensation. Contact: United International Corporation @235-6888/7888.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (ST 7373)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; workmen compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Pacific Blue Corporation dba PC Outlet CNMI @233-0168.

1 (GEN.) MAINTENANCE REP. (ST 7374)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Medical & workmen compensation provided. Contact: Pacific Blue Corporation dba PC Outlet CNMI @233-0168.

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1 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN (ST 7375)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self provided food; workmen compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Pacific Blue Corporation dba PC Outlet CNMI @233-0168.

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1 DRESS MAKER (ST 7376)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation provided & transportation self arrange. Contact: Editha G. Welle dba Rit'z Dress Shop @235-4536.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7377)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation will be employer provided. Contact: Servino & Assoc., Inc. @235-5073.

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1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (ThS 0001)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self-arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Mugen Corporation @323-9238.

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1 CASHIER (ThS 0002)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self-arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: McMillan Corporation/James McMillan dba J & N Mini Mart @322-4616.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (ThS 0003)
Salary:$800.00-1,000.00/month. Benefits: Self-arranged housing; self-provided food; vacation & sick leaves, medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Western Sales Trading Company @322-6031.

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1 BEAUTICIAN (ThS 0004)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self-arranged housing; self-provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Hen Qi Li Corp. @235-6891.

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1 MASON (ThS 0005)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self-arranged housing; self-provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Universal Development Inc. @322-5881.

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1 DRESSMAKER (ThS 0006)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self-arranged housing; self-provided food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Hong Fu, Inc. @233-6160 / 287-5998.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. (SM 0001)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

WHATZIT Solution:
Come down to earth

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1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0002)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (SM 0003)
Salary:$615.33-$750.00/monthly. Benefits: ER provide housing; self provide food; w/transportation service; worksmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Island Investment Inc. @234-6089.

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1 AIRCON & REF. TECH. (SM 0004)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: E.C Entertainment & Promo Inc. dba Woolwich Auto Shop @235-6072/5.

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1 HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT (SM 0005)
Salary:$3.55-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Brilliant Star Montessori School dba Brilliant Star School @323-7827.

1 MAINTENANCE WORKER (SM 0006)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Brilliant Star Montessori School dba Brilliant Star School @323-7827.

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1 CARPENTER (SM 0007)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 ELECTRICIAN (SM 0008)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 CARPENTER (SM 0009)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 MASON (SM 0010)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 CABLE SPLICER (SM 0011)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SM 0012)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $10); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Uni-World Int'l Inc. dba Uni-World Construction Inc. @288-1312.

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1 COOK HELPER (SM 0013)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical covered under workers compensation. Contact: Robert J. Bracken dba Spicy Thai Noodle Place @235-8603.

2 EXECUTIVE CHEF (SM 0014)
Salary:$7.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; free food; medical covered under workers compensation. Contact: Robert J. Bracken dba Spicy Thai Noodle Place @235-8603.

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1 FOUNTAIN SERVER (SM 0015)
Salary:$3.70/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: 3's Inc. dba Hula Girl @234-3533.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

C
O
M
EARTH

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Find today's solution in this section

Cavs beef up with Wallace, Szczerbiak

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James finally got some help to win an NBA title. In a complex, 11-player trade involving Cleveland, Chicago and Seattle, the Cavaliers acquired center Ben Wallace from the Bulls and forward Wally Szczerbiak from the SuperSonics, two players to possibly get James and the Cavs through the Eastern Conference and back to the finals.

Cleveland general manager Danny Ferry, unable to finalize major deals in the past, pulled off a colossal one as the clock ticked down in the final hours before Thursday's 3 p.m. deadline.

The Cavaliers sent guard Larry Hughes, forwards Drew Gooden and Cedric Simmons, and guard Shannon Brown to Chicago for Wallace, one of the game's top inside enforcers, and forward Joe Smith.

Cleveland acquired the sharpshooting Szczerbiak and guard Delonte West from Seattle for forwards Ira Newble and Donyell Marshall.

The Cavaliers will also get Chicago's second-round pick in 2009. The SuperSonics will receive guard Adrian Griffin from the Bulls.

The deal caps a busy month of trades around the NBA as several stars, including Shaquille O'Neal, Jason Kidd, Shawn Marion and Pau Gasol, all were dealt to new teams. The Gasol swap triggered an arms race of sorts among the Western Conference's top squads, while this one could have a big impact at the top of the East.

Plagued by injuries this season, the Cavaliers are nine games behind Detroit in the Central Division and are fourth overall behind Boston, the Pistons and Orlando in the conference standings.

James, who is having an MVP-caliber season, had hoped Ferry could pull the trigger on a deal as the deadline neared. But Cleveland's superstar probably couldn't have imagined such an overhaul.

Ferry traded 60 percent of the starting lineup Cavs coach Mike Brown sent out on the floor for Wednesday night's game in Indiana.

In the 33-year-old Wallace, the Cavaliers are getting a defensive intimidator. But Big Ben will give them little or nothing on offense. He was a disappointment for the underachieving Bulls, who enter Friday's game 17 1/2 games out of first in the Central.

Chicago signed Wallace to a four-year, $60 million contract in 2006. He has two years remaining on that deal worth roughly $30 million. The Bulls thought he was the missing piece to get them back into contention for an NBA title, something they haven't sniffed since Michael Jordan retired.

Wallace got the Bulls into the second round in last year's playoffs. But the team hasn't recovered from a slow start this season and Wallace is averaging 5.1 points and 8.8 rebounds—his worst season statistically since 1999-00.

"It was pretty good," Wallace said of his time in Chicago. "It is what it is. It's one of those things that you come in and you play hard and try to give what you can give and not worry about the things you can't control."

AP

Chicago Bulls' Ben Wallace, center, battles for a rebound with Phoenix Suns' Leandro Barbosa, left, of Brazil, and Amare Stoudemire during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Chicago in this Jan. 27, 2008 file photo.

Bulls guard Ben Gordon was sorry to see Wallace go.

"He was a great teammate," Gordon said. "I think he definitely helped us to get to the second round of the playoffs last season. I guess management felt that they didn't reach expectations that they wanted him to. That's part of the business."

Much like Wallace, Hughes didn't deliver as the Cavs had hoped. They signed him to a five-year, $60 million free agent deal in 2005, but he struggled with injuries and his jump shot. Recently, though, Hughes had found his touch, which could help the Bulls climb back in the playoff picture.

Hughes had become a target of abuse at Cleveland home games as fans grumbled with every miss and every mention of a contract that seemed untradeable.

The Cavaliers will be the eighth team for the well-traveled Smith, a 32-year-old veteran averaging 11.2 points and 5.3 rebounds. Smith brings the Cavaliers experience and versatility up front.

Gooden, too, can boost Chicago's inside game. The 26-year-old is averaging 11.3 points and 8.3 rebounds per season.

It's unusual for two teams in the same division to swap key players and the Cavaliers and Bulls haven't played yet this season. They'll meet for the first of four games on March 1 in Cleveland.

Szczerbiak, who was part of the draft day trade that sent Ray Allen to Boston for the No. 5 pick—Jeff Green—and West, added scoring punch in a reserve role for the rebuilding SuperSonics.

He averaged 13.1 points, second behind rookie sensation Kevin Durant, and consistently showed he was fully recovered from offseason ankle surgery. In his final game with Seattle on Tuesday, Szczerbiak was the catalyst for a second-half rally, scoring 24 points, including the go-ahead basket with 31 seconds remaining in a victory over Memphis.

Szczerbiak should get plenty of open looks in Cleveland. With more and more defenses double- and triple-teaming James, the club needs perimeter players capable of knocking down outside shots consistently—something Hughes couldn't do.

West never found a spot in Seattle's rotation. Nagging foot injuries shuffled him farther down the bench, and when coach P.J. Carlesimo finally settled on a rotation, West was often the odd man out.

West played in just 35 games, starting only five, and averaged 6.8 points in almost 21 minutes. He played 30 or more minutes just four times all season, after starting 118 games the previous two seasons in Boston.

He could develop into the point guard the Cavaliers have lacked since James arrived.

The dealing by young GM Sam Presti only adds to the flexibility the Sonics will have in their rebuilding process. Combined with the trade of Kurt Thomas to San Antonio on Wednesday for Brent Barry, Francisco Elson and a 2009 first-round pick, the Sonics now have 13 picks in the next three drafts and have acquired three players with contracts expiring after this season.

McGrady leads Rockets past Heat, 112-100

HOUSTON (AP)—Tracy McGrady scored 23 points, Yao Ming added 21 and the Houston Rockets won their 10th straight game, a 112-100 victory over Miami on Thursday night that sent the Heat to their 10th straight loss.

Houston has won 14 of its last 15 games and the winning streak is its longest since the championship season of 1993-94 when the team opened with 15 straight.

Miami, the NBA's worst team playing in its first game since the All-Star break, has just nine wins and has lost 25 of its last 26 games.

The Heat got 33 points from Dwyane Wade, and Shawn Marion added 18 points and 10 rebounds in his fourth game with Miami since being traded from Phoenix in the Shaquille O'Neal deal.

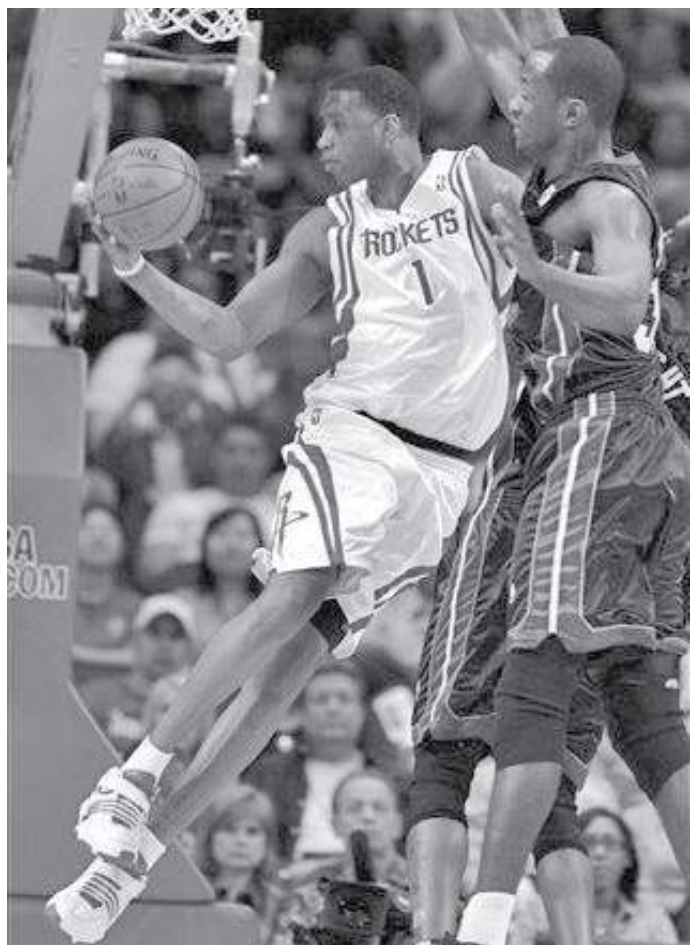
The Rockets led comfortably most of the way and were ahead by 11 before Carl Landry wowed the crowd by putting his arms out as if he were flying on his way down from a dunk that made it 98-85 midway through the fourth quarter. Landry had 19 points.

The Heat wouldn't threaten again after that play.

McGrady, who had 10 assists, got back on track after struggling with poor shooting in his last five games to post his first 20-point game since Feb. 4.

The Heat went on a 10-4 run, capped by a 3-pointer by Marion, to open the third quarter and cut it to 66-58. The Rockets reeled off five straight points to push their lead to 13 at 71-58 with about 7 minutes left in the quarter.

Miami cut the lead to eight points two more times in the third, but each time the Rockets answered with a small run to get the advantage back into double digits.



AP

Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady (1) goes for two points against Miami Heat center Earl Barron, right, during the first half of a basketball game Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008, in Houston.

Spurs 100, Timberwolves 99

At Minneapolis, Manu Ginobili hit a jumper from the top of the key with 6.2 seconds left for the last of his 44 points, leading San Antonio to its fourth straight win.

Trail Blazers 92, SuperSonics 88

At Portland, Ore., Brandon Roy had 19 points and a career-high 14 rebounds, LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks, and the Trail Blazers stopped their five-game losing streak with a win over Seattle.

NBA BRIEFS

Pistons acquire Dixon; Rockets pick up Gerald Green

TORONTO (AP)—The Toronto Raptors acquired center Primoz Brezec and cash from the Detroit Pistons on Thursday for guard Juan Dixon. Dixon was averaging 4.3 points and 1.8 assists in 36 games with Toronto this season, his second with the Raptors. Dixon joined Toronto from Portland last year in a trade deadline deal that sent swingman Fred Jones to the Trail Blazers. Dixon asked Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo to explore trade options after he lost playing time to newcomers Carlos Delfino, Jason Kapono and Jamario Moon. Toronto will be Brezec's third team this season. The 7-foot-1 Slovenian began the year with Charlotte but was traded to Detroit along with Walter Herrmann in a Dec. 14 deal that sent Nazr Mohammed to the Bobcats. Brezec, who played alongside Toronto's Rasho Nesterovic for Slovenia at the 2006 world championships, is averaging 1.7 points and 1.7 rebounds in 37 games this season.

Hornets get Wells, James from Rockets

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Looking to solidify their bench and protect their perch atop the Western Conference, the New Orleans Hornets acquired swingman Bonzi Wells and guard Mike James on Thursday in a trade that sent veteran guard Bobby Jackson to Houston. "We wanted to add a little bit of presence on our bench in the form of players who could give us some scoring punch," Hornets general manager Jeff Bower said. "This trade dramatically improves our team by giving us proven veteran scorers at the backup guard and swing positions." The trade involved three teams. The Hornets also sent rookie guard Adam Haluska and second-year forward Marcus Vinicius to Houston, then Houston sent Vinicius, the rights to Malick Badiane and cash to Memphis in exchange for the rights to Sergei Lishouk. New Orleans and Houston agreed to exchange second-round draft picks if the Hornets' second pick is higher than Houston's.

Rockets obtain Green from Wolves

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves traded seldom-used swingman Gerald Green to the Houston Rockets on Thursday for shooting guard Kirk Snyder. Minnesota also gets a second-round pick in 2010 and cash. Green is a Houston native who was taken out of high school by Boston in 2005. He's averaging a little more than five points and two rebounds in scant playing time. He will be a free agent after this season. Snyder has played in just nine games this season. He's averaging almost four points.

Nuggets acquire rookie point guard

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers have acquired guard Von Wafer from the Denver Nuggets in exchange for guard Taurean Green. Wafer, a three-year veteran, averaged 1.3 points, 0.5 rebounds, 0.2 assists and 4.3 minutes in 21 games with the Nuggets this season. Green, a rookie, was selected by the Trail Blazers with the 52nd overall pick out of Florida. He played in eight games for the Blazers this season, averaging 2.1 points in 5.5 minutes.

Howard wins $10M in arbitration

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—Everywhere Ryan Howard turned, people wanted to dig into his pockets.

Howard's bank account just skyrocketed like one of those home runs he deposits into the upper deck. Baseball's best bargain finally will be getting big bucks.

Howard won his salary arbitration case against the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday when he was awarded $10 million, the highest figure given a victorious player.

Now teammates expect him to pay for their meals and pick up the tab on their nights out.

"My reaction is mostly relief," Howard said. "It was an interesting process. Anyway you look at it, it's a win-win because it's a substantial raise."

Howard made $900,000 last year and $355,000 during his MVP season in 2006. The Phillies offered $7 million, but Howard became the first player to win in six arbitration cases this season.

Howard tied the record for the highest salary awarded in arbitration, received by Alfonso Soriano in his losing case against the Washington Nationals in 2006. Soriano had sought $12 million.

"I'm sure he's very pleased," Phillies assistant general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said. "This has been a negotiation that has been very amicable and very professional. It's just a part of the process."

Los Angeles Angels reliever Francisco Rodriguez will either tie the arbitration record or break it after going to a hearing Thursday. K-Rod, eligible for free agency after this season, asked a panel of Stephen Goldberg, Elizabeth Neumeier and Steven Wolf for a raise from $7.1 million to $12.5 million. The Angels argued for $10 million.

Howard batted .268 with 47 homers and 136 RBIs last season in what was considered a down year for him. In 2006 he had 58 homers, 149 RBIs and a .313 average, one of the best seasons by a second-year player.

The 28-year-old first baseman has less than three years service time in the majors, partly because his path was blocked by Jim Thome. An injury to Thome during the 2005 season paved the way for Howard, who had 22 homers and 63 RBIs in just 88 games to win the NL Rookie of the Year award.

The case was decided by Goldberg, Robert Bailey and Jack Clarke. The panel listened for nearly five hours as each side presented its arguments Wednesday in St. Petersburg.

Howard was represented by his agent, Casey Close. Houston Astros president Tal Smith, who represents many teams, handled the Phillies' side.

Amaro negotiated with Close right until the hearing began, but couldn't agree on a deal. Howard can't become a free agent until after the 2011 season. It's likely the Phillies will try to sign him to a long-term contract much sooner.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Ryan Howard fields balls from his knees during a practice at baseball spring training in Clearwater, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008.

"We negotiated right up to the courthouse steps with Ryan in a variety of ways and unfortunately we couldn't get it done," Amaro said.

If the team upset or insulted Howard at the hearing, he didn't let on.

"I'll leave what happened in there in there," he said, adding he'll leave his options open for a longer contract. "I'm sure there's going to be talks and discussions. As for now, I'm not going to focus on it. For now, I'm focusing on getting my game right."

He might have to pay off a few debts, too.

When Howard joined the Phillies, he spent time living with Jimmy Rollins. The reigning NL MVP figures his former housemate owes him more than just chores.

"I don't want Ryan to do the dishes anymore. He needs to pay me," Rollins joked.

Owners previously defeated pitchers Brian Fuentes of Colorado, Jose Valverde of Houston and Chien-Ming Wang of the New York Yankees, along with Washington infielder Felipe Lopez and Astros infielder Mark Loretta.

Rodriguez and New York Mets pitcher Oliver Perez are the only remaining arbitration cases.

Philadelphia hadn't gone to arbitration since defeating Travis Lee in 2001 and had been 7-0 in arbitration decisions.

Woods, Stricker only top seeds remaining

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Victories came in all shapes and sizes in the Accenture Match Play Championship, whether it was an easy time for Tiger Woods, overtime for Steve Stricker or Phil Mickelson now getting to spend time with his kids.

Anything goes in this format, and 16 players went home Thursday, some in cruel fashion.

"Match play is an animal that's all about the moment," Woods said after his 3-and-2 victory over Arron Oberholser. "It's not about building toward Sunday. If you don't play well, you're going home."

Or in the case of Mickelson, you can play great and still go home.

Lefty birdied his first two holes. He hit a 3-wood from 317 yards to 5 feet for eagle on the 635-yard fifth hole. He added three birdies in a four-hole stretch to start the back nine. And he lost on the 17th hole to Stuart Appleby's ninth birdie of the round.

"It was a good match, but unfortunately, I just didn't shoot low enough," Mickelson said before heading home to San Diego for a long weekend off. He has never made it past the quarterfinals.

K.J. Choi didn't make a single birdie over his final 12 holes and finished his day at even par. He'll be back Friday after winning in 19 holes over Ian Poulter, who again didn't live up to his potential and played slightly worse.

Jonathan Byrd followed his 6-and-5 victory over Ernie Els with a 6-and-4 decision over Andres Romero of Argentina, meaning he has had to play only 27 holes in two rounds.

That's almost a full round less than defending champion Henrik Stenson, who beat Trevor Immelman on the seventh extra hole.

"You do know there's a 15th hole out there," Justin Leonard said to Byrd, and it was a fair question because Byrd hasn't gotten that far in his two matches.

Stricker delivered the dramatics against Presidents Cup teammate Hunter Mahan, closing with three straight birdies to win in 20 holes for the second straight day. Stricker made a 10-foot birdie on the 19th hole to stay in the match, then buried a birdie putt just inside 50 feet on the next hole to advance.

"I'm still playing. That's the key to this event," Stricker said. "The key is to be standing and going on to the next day, no matter how many holes it goes. I feel fortunate."

David Toms had no fortune at all. His back flared up late in his first-round victory over Masters champion Zach Johnson, and the pain was such that he had to withdraw before facing Aaron Baddeley, giving the Australian a day off.

Next up for Baddeley is a third-round date with Woods.

Woods had to play his final five holes in 5-under par to rally against J.B. Holmes in the first round. He had so such worries against Oberholser, playing in his first tournament of the year because of a shoulder injury. He hit his second shot into the desert to lose the opening hole, and didn't win a hole until a birdie at the 12th.

"You'd better get organized quick and get off to a quick start and never give holes away," Woods said. "That's one of the things that I did today versus yesterday. I never gave Arron a hole. He had to earn holes."

Match play delivered some key moments on a sunny day amid saguaros and sagebrush.

■ Sergio Garcia was cruising against Boo Weekley, going 2 up with an eagle on the 10th, then his putter started acting up, he bogeyed three of the next four holes and was headed home.

■ Adam Scott missed three putts inside 10 feet over his last four holes and lost to Woody Austin, the seventh straight year that Scott was beaten in the Match Play by an American.

The most bizarre match was the final one of the second round. Stenson was 4 up through eight holes against Trevor Immelman, but it took him 17 more holes to win, and he was lucky to get by.

Immelman, who lost in the semifinals to Stenson last year, drove the 314-yard seventh green and had 20 feet left for eagle, while Stenson hit into a bunker. Stenson blasted out to 3 feet, and Immelman's eagle putt slid 6 feet by the cup. He missed it for par, and Stenson calmly knocked in his birdie for the win.

"I'm just happy I hung in there," said Stenson, who has played 43 holes in two days.

All that mattered was advancing to the third round.

"I don't need to savor the victory," Appleby said of beating the No. 2 player in the world. "Does it mean any more? No. It just means I'm advancing. I don't get a bonus for beating him. Yes, I have to get through one of the best players to move on, so that's been done."

Appleby has not reached the third round since 2001 in Australia.

Colin Montgomerie has not been this far since 2004, and it could not have come at a better time. He is No. 62 in the world and needs all the ranking points he can get to reach the Masters.

After building a 2-up lead over Charles Howell III, the match turned in the American's favor when Howell birdied five of the next six holes to take the lead. Monty put on his Ryder Cup cap, birdied three of the next four and held on for a 1-up victory.

Stenson's match was the longest. Stricker's was the most riveting.

Stricker has never trailed in 40 holes, although Mahan made him sweat. Mahan holed an 8-foot birdie on the 17th to square the match, and after Stricker hit his approach to 2 feet on the 18th, Mahan made birdie from 15 feet to go extra holes.

Then came the 20th hole, the par-4 fourth, with both players some 50 feet away.

Stricker's putt banged off the back of the cup and dropped, and he stretched out his fist to celebrate.

"It was going fast, but it looked good the whole way," Stricker said.

NFL BRIEFS

Patriots don't franchise Moss

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots did not designate Randy Moss as a franchise player Thursday, but there was no word from the team on whether they had reached a contract agreement with the wide receiver or are allowing him to become a free agent. Teams had until 4 p.m. to designate one player as a franchise player if they wished. Only 11 teams did that, not including the Patriots. If Moss and the Patriots have agreed to a multiyear contract, it cannot be announced until Feb. 29. After taking a pay cut when he was traded by Oakland to New England last April, Moss had an outstanding season. He set the NFL record with 23 touchdown catches in a season and totaled 98 receptions for 1,493 yards. He repeatedly has praised quarterback Tom Brady, who has said he wants Moss back. Last year the Patriots designated cornerback Asante Samuel as a franchise player but agreed not to do it again this year.

Colts give TE Dallas Clark a 6-year deal

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indianapolis tight end Dallas Clark can at least buy a ticket to Hawaii for the next six years if the Pro Bowl voters continue to overlook his talents. Colts president Bill Polian said Wednesday that Clark signed a new six-year contract that virtually assures Peyton Manning of finding one of his favorite targets for the rest of his career. Terms were not disclosed, but a source close to the negotiations said the deal will make Clark the NFL's highest-paid player at his position even though he's never been selected to the Pro Bowl. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because of a clause in the contract. The move came a day after the Colts announced they designated Clark their franchise player. "Mr. Polian and I had engaged in ongoing conversations since the fall with the intent desire to keep Dallas with the Colts till the end of his career," said Neil Cornrich, Clark's agent. "It's been close for quite a while and we just refined it." As the franchise player, Clark would have been guaranteed $4.55 million, the average of the top five tight end salaries in the NFL. But the long-term contract means the Colts can make the deal more affordable under the NFL's complex salary cap structure. The cap is expected to be about $123 million this season.

Purefoods bounces back, narrows gap to 2-1

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	41	11	.788	_
Toronto	29	23	.558	12
New Jersey	24	30	.444	18
Philadelphia	24	31	.436	18 1/2
New York	16	38	.296	26

Southeast Division

Orlando	34	22	.607	_
Washington	25	28	.472	7 1/2
Atlanta	21	30	.412	10 1/2
Charlotte	19	35	.352	14
Miami	9	43	.173	23

Central Division

Detroit	39	15	.722	_
Cleveland	30	24	.556	9
Chicago	21	32	.396	17 1/2
Indiana	21	33	.389	18
Milwaukee	20	34	.370	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	37	15	.712	_
San Antonio	36	17	.679	1 1/2
Dallas	35	19	.648	3
Houston	34	20	.630	4
Memphis	14	40	.259	24

Northwest Division

Utah	35	19	.648	_
Denver	33	20	.623	1 1/2
Portland	29	25	.537	6
Seattle	14	39	.264	20 1/2
Minnesota	11	42	.208	23 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	37	17	.685	_
Phoenix	37	17	.685	_
Golden State	33	21	.611	4
Sacramento	25	28	.472	111/2
L.A. Clippers	18	33	.353	171/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 112, Miami 100
San Antonio 100, Minnesota 99
Portland 92, Seattle 88

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	48	515	350	1449	30.2
Bryant, LAL	54	512	401	1519	28.1
Iverson, Den.	53	457	437	1407	26.5
Anthony, Den.	48	459	308	1262	26.3
Wade, Mia.	42	357	294	1022	24.3
Stoudemire, Phoe.	51	437	321	1199	23.5
Jefferson, N.J.	54	404	395	1245	23.1
Redd, Mil.	44	332	260	1008	22.9
Nowitzki, Dall.	54	428	340	1237	22.9
Bosh, Tor.	47	360	351	1074	22.9
Yao, Hou.	52	405	338	1148	22.1
Maggette, LAC	42	279	320	916	21.8
Davis, G.S.	54	410	238	1176	21.8
Howard, Orl.	56	412	392	1216	21.7
Boozer, Utah	53	476	190	1142	21.5
Jamison, Wash.	53	419	220	1139	21.5
Butler, Wash.	43	348	179	921	21.4
Jefferson, Minn.	52	458	186	1102	21.2
Wallace, Char.	48	338	271	1001	20.9
Carter, N.J.	49	365	230	1019	20.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Biedrins, G.S.	240	386	.622
Chandler, N.O.	236	389	.607
Howard, Orl.	412	685	.601
Stoudemire, Phoe.	437	742	.589
Childress, Atl.	210	360	.583
Lee, N.Y.	215	374	.575
Smith, Minn.	202	360	.561
Curry, N.Y.	262	476	.550
Calderon, Tor.	265	482	.550
Garnett, Bos.	318	584	.545

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	56	209	603	812	14.5
Camby, Den.	50	166	550	716	14.3
Kaman, LAC	46	145	472	617	13.4
Chandler, N.O.	49	217	391	608	12.4
Jefferson, Minn.	52	213	417	630	12.1
Duncan, S.A.	48	158	396	554	11.5
Okafor, Char.	54	190	409	599	11.1
Yao, Hou.	52	165	400	565	10.9
Boozer, Utah	53	135	438	573	10.8
Jamison, Wash.	53	156	395	551	10.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, Phoe.	53	618	11.7
Paul, N.O.	50	546	10.9
Kidd, Dall.	52	535	10.3
Williams, Utah	54	526	9.7
Calderon, Tor.	52	465	8.9
Tinsley, Ind.	39	326	8.4
Davis, G.S.	54	432	8.0
James, Clev.	48	358	7.5
Iverson, Den.	53	389	7.3
Billups, Det.	52	364	7.0

MATCH PLAY RESULTS

SECOND ROUND

Jones Bracket

Tiger Woods (1), United States, def. Arron Oberholser (33), United States, 3 and 2.
Aaron Baddeley (17), Australia, def. David Toms (49), United States, injury default.
Paul Casey (25), England, def. Bradley Dredge (57), Wales, 2 and 1.
K.J. Choi (9), South Korea, def. Ian Poulter (24), England, 19 holes.

Hogan Bracket

Jonathan Byrd (61), United States, def. Andres Romero (36), Argentina, 6 and 4.
Henrik Stenson (13), Sweden, def. Trevor Immelman (20), South Africa, 25 holes.
Woody Austin (37), United States, def. Adam Scott (5), Australia, 19 holes.
Boo Weekley (44), United States, def. Sergio Garcia (12), Spain, 3 and 1.

Snead Bracket

Steve Stricker (3), United States, def. Hunter Mahan (35), United States, 20 holes.
Angel Cabrera (14), Argentina, def. Luke Donald (19), England, 2 and 1.
Colin Montgomerie (59), Scotland, def. Charles Howell III (38), United States, 1 up.
Stewart Cink (22), United States, def. Padraig Harrington (11), Ireland, 2 up.

Player Bracket

Stuart Appleby (31), Australia, def. Phil Mickelson (2), United States, 2 and 1.
Justin Leonard (50), United States, def. Lee Westwood (18), England, 2 and 1.
Rod Pampling (58), Australia, def. Nick O'Hern (39), Australia, 5 and 4.
Vijay Singh (10), Fiji, def. Niclas Fasth (23), Sweden, 1 up.

By The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines—James Yap struggled with his offense and Kerby Raymundo sat out most of the third quarter due to foul trouble. But the Giants didn't seem to mind.

Peter June Simon picked up the slack to lead a superb performance by Purefoods' support crew and sparked the Giants' 118-107 victory over the Sta. Lucia Realtors in Game 3 of the 2007-08 Smart PBA Philippine Cup title series Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

With their two superstars taking a breather, Simon took matters into his hands and boosted the confidence of his teammates by repeatedly defying Sta. Lucia's defense and knocking down the big shots.

He eventually finished with 26 points, including 12 in the last 2:18 of the third quarter that signaled the Giants' breakaway. Simon capped his awesome third quarter stint by closing the period with back-to-back 3-pointers that gave Purefoods an 86-80 lead going into the payoff period.

"We're back," proclaimed Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio as soon as he entered the press room for the post-game news conference.

"Our battlecry coming into this game was to stay alive. I thought my players showed a great sense of survival instincts."

Purefoods' total output marks the highest for the franchise in the Finals since the 1990 All-Filipino Conference.

The Realtors kept the game close until the 6:50 mark with Dennis Espino tying the count for the last time at 93-93 before a couple of turnovers and missed shots triggered Sta. Lucia's meltdown.

"My players didn't back down. They played their hearts out. I thought we deserved to win but Purefoods came out strong," said Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez.

Sta. Lucia still leads the series, 2-1, but momentum shifts to the Giants when they face-off in Game 4 set on Friday also at the Big Dome.

In an effort to keep James Yap and Raymundo fresh, Gregorio keep on shuffling his wards. His gambit worked well as Purefoods' reserves outscored Sta. Lucia's bench, 58-44.

James Yap, who sat out long stretches in the first three quarters, still led all scorers with 29 points. Raymundo, who had to be taken out with still 4:58 left in the third after picking up his fifth foul, returned midway into the fourth and finished with 26 points that went with his eight rebounds and six assists.

"It's also mattered that we were able to stop Sta. Lucia's import," said Gregorio, referring to Kelly Williams, who, he said, played like one. "And it's a good thing Kelly did not explode in the third and fourth quarters. He killed us with his explosive game in the second half in the first two games."

Joseph Yeo came off the bench to lead Sta. Lucia's offense with 22 points, but foul trouble on the Realtors' key players—Denis Miranda, Dennis Espino, Ryan Reyes, Dennis Daa, Christian Coronel and Nelbert Omolon—spoiled his remarkable effort and stymied the team's quest for a commanding 3-0 lead.

Espino finished with 20 points and Miranda added 17 for the Realtors, who missed 15 free throws and went just 2-of-12 from the 3-point range. Williams, who played 42 minutes, managed just 10 points on 2-of-12 shooting—his lowest output in the last 23 games. But he still had a game-high 14 rebounds for his 19th double-double in the conference, the most by any player.

Purefoods 118 – J. Yap 27, Simon 26, Raymundo 26, R. Yap 14, Pingris 9, Salvador 4, Adducul 4, Castillo 4, Lanete 2, Sanz 1, Larong 1.

Sta. Lucia 107 – Yeo 22, Espino 20, Miranda 17, Williams 10, Aquino 9, Reyes 8, Omolon 8, Mendoza 7, Gonzales 3, Daa 2, Butel 1, Coronel 0.

Quarters: 28-26; 59-56; 86-80;118-107. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

FAMILY

From Page 28

is survived by his parents, son Ric-Ric, and brothers and sisters Bobot, Amy, Nestor, Irene A. Valencia, Linda, Mario, and Tom.

The 39-year-old Alegre, who is considered the heart-and-soul of every team that he played with, died on Feb. 13 during Aqua Resort Club's game against Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Alegre was born on Oct. 6, 1968 in Sta. Lucia Ilocos Sur but grew up in San Fernando, La Union.

Aside from being a player Alegre, who is a former CNMI Men's National Team member, also coached teams to numerous titles and officiated games in the youth leagues.

NMBF

From Page 28

competition among the players.

NMBF members who want to join are paired up in a blind draw, knockout match format. The events played are in men's, women's, and mixed doubles.

Last week, the mixed doubles pair of Hapi Gabriel and Marlene Peraja defeated the duo of Diane Dar Juan and Lito Mendoza, 16-21, 21-18, 21-14, to claim the week's bragging rights.

Only two courts are being used for the mini-tournament with the other four reserved for those players who don't want to join the games.

Last Feb. 9, Ryan Achas and Jojo Lazaro won the men's doubles, while Dar Juan teamed up with Merlie Savellano to emerge victorious in the women's division.

Sign up is ongoing for Saturday's mix doubles event. The entrance fee is $2.50 per player. For more information, get in touch with NMBF secretary Hapi Gabriel or Juliet Ramos.

NMBF is also thanking JET Holdings, Jeanine Beauty Salon, Manic Inn, Reliance Construction, Traders Insurance, SaipanCell, LabTech, Makeover Beauty Salon, Trends Beauty Salon, Genoveva's Hair Power, Inc., Wear-a-Marconi, Apex Remittance, Vargas Construction, Cielo's Jewelry Creations, Pacific Trading Co., and ESolutions, Inc. that donated raffle prizes that were given away during the induction party on Feb. 16.

NMBF is also extending their appreciation to PTI, Traders Insurance, LabTech, Pure H20, Pacific Marine, Sun Palace, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Salon de Manila, Tan Holdings, SaipanCell, BME & Sons Construction, Tropex Garden, and L&M Enterprises that sponsored squads in the inaugural Mixed Team Tournament last year.

The NMBF Mixed Team Tournament was held in cooperation with Admaran International, Coral Ocean Point, Jollibee, Macatangay Dermhealth Saipan, Micronesian Brokers Inc., Truong's Vietnamese Restaurant, Vargas Construction, EI Freight Micronesia, Inc., Manic Inn, and Elite Printing.

BUCCANEERS

From Page 28

Sahara concluded Buccaneers' domination of the virtual meet, marshaling 170 points to finish atop the boys' 8-and-under division. Teammate Takashi Kanazawa came in second with his 95 points.

Palau Swimming Association's Ayana Rengiiil topped the girls' 8-and-under age group with her 80 points.

According to SSC head coach Michael Stewart, the 2008 edition of the Heptathlon Meet was participated in by almost 100 swimmers from Japan, Marshall Islands, Palau, and Saipan.

"This is the second year we offered this as a virtual meet, and the growth was great. Last year only one team from off-island sent results, with a total of just 34 swimmers in the meet. We had a couple of teams from the States interested in participating, however, due to scheduling problems, we were unable to [push through with that] this time around. I have heard that they would love to participate later on in the year when we host the same type of meet again," said Stewart.

He added that the Heptathlon results were scored based on a sliding scale from the USA Swimming Age-Group Motivational Times List, which means the faster your time, the greater the number of points, from 0 to 100.

Stewart said plaques will be awarded to the top two-point winners in each age-group/gender.

It has been dubbed Heptathlon Meet because it incorporates 10 events, namely 100m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 100m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, and 100 butterfly.

MIND

From Page 28

that didn't go to overtime.

"Offensively it was really good, the way we played," Boris Diaw said. "It was more defensively that we had trouble finding a way to play together."

D'Antoni said the Suns had become "stale" with Shawn Marion in their lineup and had been "for so long, running uphill." Acquiring O'Neal was a gamble, he acknowledged, but a calculated one.

"If we can get him back to the way he was going with Miami in his first year there or his Laker years, we could have a much better shot at winning," D'Antoni said.

"And it doesn't mean you couldn't win it the other way. And it doesn't mean this way is going to win. ... We don't think it's that big of an if. We think he's healthy and he's going to stay healthy. We have faith in our guys what they do in here. And we'll see."

They saw enough Wednesday to know that life with O'Neal won't be dull. It never is.

It might even be successful, given some time.

"He looked great for us," said Amare Stoudemire, who led the Suns with 37 points. "As a team we're getting used to playing with him. The second half showed that."

Seeing his new teammate dive on top of referees, opponents and courtside spectators was a source of inspiration for Stoudemire.

"With his energy he gave us energy," Stoudemire said. "Unfortunately we lost the game tonight, but there were a lot of positives from this game."

Among the most encouraging moments, O'Neal said, were his ability to almost sprint downcourt after Bryant was called for goaltending on a shot that allowed the Suns to cut the Lakers' lead to 115-114 with 4 minutes 17 seconds left.

"I was the first big man to run the court," O'Neal said. "A couple of knick-knack injuries the last couple off years have slowed me down so you earthlings automatically think I can't run."

If his body is slower, his mind is still quick. How soon he can synchronize them might go a long way toward determining the course of the West.

The Lakers tied the Suns for the Pacific Division lead and they've had more time for their newest addition, Pau Gasol, to blend into their lineup. But it's never wise to count O'Neal out if he scents a championship.

He called his arrival in Phoenix "the final chapter of my book," one that has been "suspenseful and dramaful." He believes he can expand his collection of championship rings by one or two, and the pursuit surely will be entertaining.

Said O'Neal: "I'll be a bitter old man if I end my days with four."

Cavs beef up with Wallace, Szczerbiak

LeBron James finally got some help to win an NBA title.

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Howard wins $10M in arbitration

Everywhere Ryan Howard turned, people wanted to dig into his pockets.

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Buccaneers dominate Heptathlon Meet

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

International Buccaneers dominated the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held "virtually" for three off-island teams and real-time for two local teams last Feb. 1 and 2.

The Tokyo, Japan-based swim team had 11 of its swimmers either winning or finishing runner-up in the five age groups for boys and girls.

Buccaneers were led by Kelly Moodie, who racked up 665 points in the boys' 13-14 division. The 665 points is a new Heptathlon record for points but was a mere five points behind teammate Bruno Ozeki who came in second.

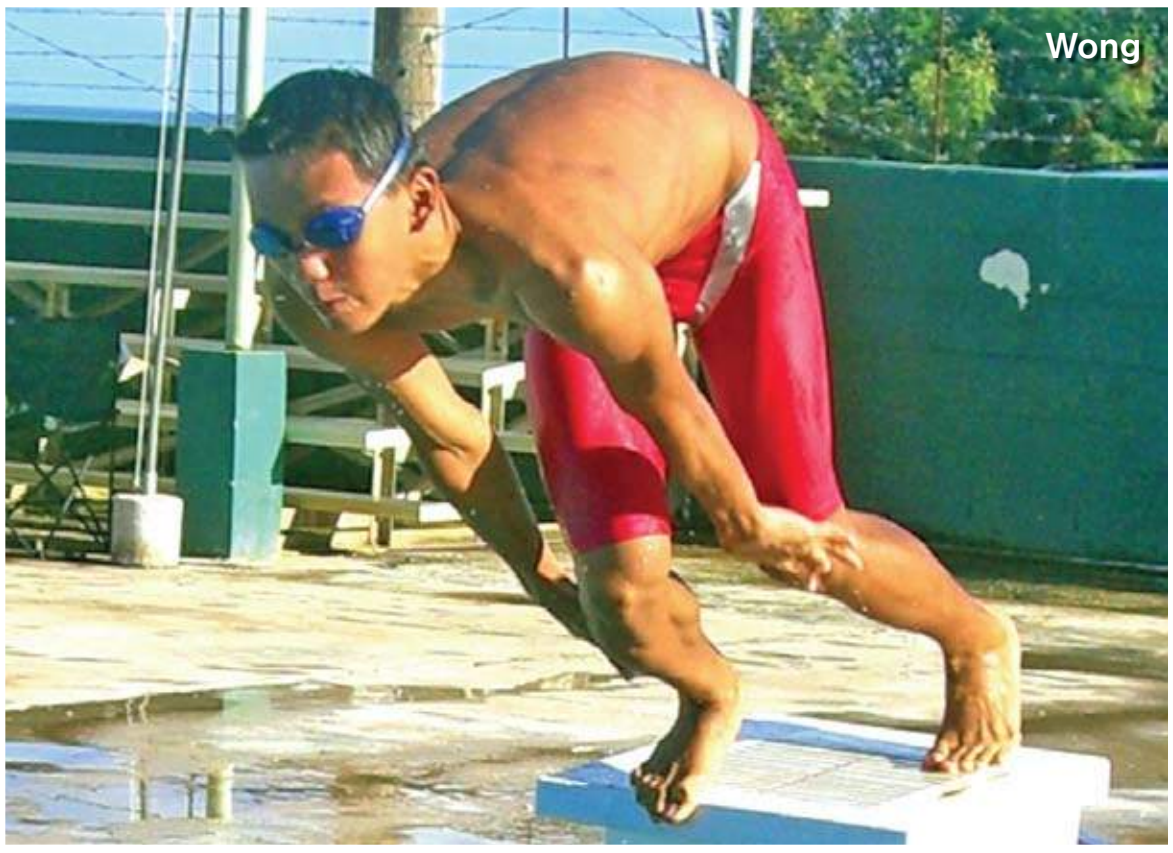
Fellow Buccaneers Alexis McCoy, Anna Saber, Kana Moodie, Shawma Chun, Mokhtar Al-Yamani, and Yutaro Sahara, meanwhile, topped their respective age divisions.

Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong and SSC's Abigail Martinsen, meanwhile, raised the CNMI's flag high by topping their respective divisions.

Wong had 655 points to win the boys' 15-and-over age group. Buccaneers' Mario Schwaller settled for second with his 605 points.

Martinsen, for her part, had 320 points to take home first place in the girls' 9-10 division. Teammate Victoria Chentsova came away with 225 points to come in second.

McCoy accumulated 535 points to win the girls' 15-and-over age group. She was followed by Saipan Swim Club's Sarah Johnson who managed 520 points.


Wong

Martinsen

Saber was without peer in the girls' 13-14 division, putting up 430 points. Five points off the pace was Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Marystar Welch with 425 points.

Kana Moodie had 455 points to fend off SSC's Grace Kimball for the top plum in the girls' 11-12 age group. Kimball finished with 440 points.

Chin came away with 505 points to dominate the 11-2 division for boys. A far second were teammates Nicolas Flint and Michael Liu who each wound up with 390 points.

Al-Yamani finished 545 points in the boys' 9-10 division followed by another Buccaneer as Toshiki Takahashi had 535 points to finish runner-up.

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By HELENE ELLIOTT
(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Mind's there, but O'Neal's body is not yet willing

Shaquille O'Neal wrestled and writhed, diving for the ball all over the court and trying to squeeze a few more gallons of diesel from a body running as much on adrenaline as on muscle memory.

In his first appearance as a member of the Phoenix Suns and first game since Jan. 21, O'Neal sometimes looked like the dominant Shaq of old. Sometimes he looked just plain old, lumbering upcourt while the game around him accelerated.

Yet, he got stronger as the evening got later Wednesday, an encouraging sign for a man who believes there are championship chapters left to be added to a career that brought him three NBA titles with the Lakers and one with the Miami Heat.

"This is only our first game playing and we're not really used to each other," he said. "And when we get used to each other, we're going to be the most dangerous team ever created."

The man never was understated, was he?

Whether inspired by playing against the Lakers or gratitude he was airlifted out of Miami and plunked into the middle of a terrific Western Conference playoff scramble, O'Neal found a competitive groove.

He scored 15 points, grabbed nine rebounds and recorded three assists in nearly 29 minutes, saving his best effort—nine points and three rebounds—for the fourth quarter.

If he didn't quite rediscover his rhythm during the Lakers' 130-124 victory over the Suns before a pumped-up crowd at US Airways Center, he's sure he and his new teammates soon will be able to make beautiful playoff music together.

"I haven't been this happy in a long time," he said, smiling. `I'm happy to be here and I'm happy these guys accepted me for me. I just have to fit in."

Asked exactly how long it has been since he was so joyful, he didn't miss a beat.

"About a couple days," he said, trying but not succeeding in maintaining a serious expression.

He has had only that short a time to learn his teammates' tendencies and for them to learn his. Nor do the Suns plan to change anything to accommodate O'Neal's less-than-springy legs. Coach Mike D'Antoni pointed to the Suns' prolific scoring effort as proof that no strategic changes are needed.

On second look, he might want to look at the four 30-plus-point quarters the Lakers put up and Kobe Bryant's mastery of an overmatched Raja Bell. And the fact the Lakers' point total was a season high for an opponent in a game

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NMBF invites members for Saturday Open

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Federation is inviting its members to join them for today's third day of its Saturday mini tournament from 8am to 11am at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Badminton Weekend Open began on Feb. 9 and is one of NMBF's programs for 2008 to promote the sport, establish camaraderie among its members, and improved the level of

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Family, friends pay last respects to Alegre

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Family and friends of the late Rick Alegre paid their last respects to the fallen cager yesterday in the final viewing of his remains at the Commonwealth Health Center chapel.

The final viewing at the CHC chapel was held from 4pm to 6pm. From the CHC chapel, Alegre's remains was transferred to the Pentecostal Church in San Jose where it stayed up to midnight.

Alegre's body was then brought to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at dawn where they prepared his remains for repatriation to the Philippines.

His remains were flown to Manila at 2:40am today.

Mario, who is Alegre's older brother, said their relatives would meet his brother's remains in Manila at around noon. Sister Irene left today via Continental Airlines' direct flight to Manila.

Alegre was born in the town of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, which is located north of Manila. He finished high school at Sta. Lucia Academy in Barangobong village where he was a member of the varsity team.

Alegre

He then pursued his undergraduate studies at St. Louis College in San Fernando City, La Union, taking up Architectural Drafting after their family moved there from Ilocos Sur. Alegre was also a member of the SLC varsity team.

Mario said he was instrumental for getting Rick and their other brother Tom into basketball. "I even helped Rick train when he decided to try out for the varsity team while in college."

He said Rick and Tom even played for the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant's team in La Union where they joined inter-commercial leagues. They also represented San Fernando City in inter-town leagues in Ilocos Sur.

"He [Rick] collected a lot of awards while playing basketball back in our town in La Union. I even coached him in an 18-and-under league where we won the championship in San Fernando."

Mario also served as a player-coach of Rick, who arrived on Saipan in 1993, and Tom when they played together in a team here on island before hanging up his sneakers in 1995.

Rick is the youngest among the eight siblings of Mariano Alegre and Josefina Arconado of Ilocos Sur. He

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